

CRYPTOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION METHOD, ENCRYPTION
ALGORITHM SHARED CONTROL METHOD, ENCRYPTION ALGORITHM
CONVERSION METHOD AND NETWORK COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to cryptographic communication method, encryption algorithm shared control method and network communication system for converting encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication to other encryption algorithm, and more particularly to cryptographic communication method, encryption algorithm shared control method and network communication system suitable for sharing the same encryption algorithm as encryption algorithm operated by a plurality of users and changing the shared encryption algorithm to other encryption algorithm.

2. Description of Related Art

As a means for securing the safety of information transmission, a method of transmitting encrypted information is generally employed. Because of recent advancement of performance of a personal computer, in a case where information to be transmitted is digital information such as document and video, often such information is encrypted on software basis.

If a user U[A] carries out cryptographic communication

with a user U[B], the user U[A] encrypts transmission information with an encryption key and transmits that encrypted data. On the other hand, the user U[B] receives this data and decrypts that received data with a decryption
5 key. This cryptographic communication can be established on a presumption that the user U[A] and user U[B] share the same encryption algorithm. Usually, the encryption algorithm is shared by the following manners. The encryption algorithm is recorded in a recording medium such
10 as a floppy disk by an encryption system manager and distributed to each user. Or the encryption algorithm is installed in an information processing unit having encryption processing function such that it can be executed and the information processing unit is distributed.
15 As for a method for operating the encryption algorithm, to improve the cipher security, not only a scramble key is generated as a key for encrypting information, but also a session key for encrypting this scramble key is generated. Then, duplex encryption method is employed so that user
20 U[A] transmits information encrypted with the scramble key and the scramble key encrypted with the session key to user U[B]. Each time when cryptographic communication occurs, the scramble key is changed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 However, in the above described encryption method, the

following problem arises.

(1) If the transmission side and the reception side use different operating algorithms, cryptographic communication cannot be carried out. Therefore, a necessity of
5 distributing an encryption algorithm of one of the transmission side and the reception side to the other side occurs.

However, the above described method of recording the encryption algorithm in a recording medium and distributing
10 it to each user and method of distributing an information processing unit having an encryption function in which the encryption algorithm is installed so that it can be executed requires time for distribution because the distribution is carried out by transportation or the like.
15 If the encryption algorithm is distributed to each user, an encryption processing unit in which the encryption algorithm is installed is connected to a unit having a communication function so as to construct a system, and whether or not the cryptographic communication is enabled
20 is verified on function basis. Because this functional verification is carried out with communication between users, time and labor are needed.

(2) As a method for improving the encryption security, a method of operating the encryption algorithm by
25 periodically changing it can be considered by this inventor. For example, if the encryption algorithm of the session key

in the above mentioned duplex encryption method is changed periodically, the security can be expected to be improved.

However, for this purpose, the encryption algorithm to be changed needs to be distributed to each user. However,
5 if distribution of this encryption algorithm is carried out in the same manner as (1), time and labor are needed thereby the efficiency being lower.

(3) With a recent progress of information appliance such as a personal computer, information processing speed has been
10 improved every year. The intensity of the encryption algorithm needs to be so strong that information is not decrypted within its effective limit even if an attack is made to decrypt with such information appliance.

Therefore, the intensity of the encryption algorithm
15 needs to be set corresponding to the information processing speed of the information appliance of a day in which it is used and changed to an encryption algorithm whose intensity is higher. Thus, a distribution method for an encryption algorithm having an excellent efficiency is needed like
20 above (2).

(4) The inventor of the present invention has considered a method for constructing a cryptographic communication system in which a plurality of users are connected to a station for managing the key for operating the encryption
25 algorithm. However, if a plurality of the encryption algorithms exist in the cryptographic communication system

and the encryption algorithms are periodically updated,
this system requires such a complicated system operating
function for grasping the encryption algorithms of each
user, distributing the same algorithm so as to be shared if
5 the algorithms of users about to communicate with each
other are different, if the user is changing the algorithm,
suspending the cryptographic communication with the user
whose algorithm is being changed. If the distribution
method for the encryption algorithm of (1) is applied, not
10 only time and labor are needed, but also it is difficult to
grasp the condition of the encryption algorithm of each
user at real time, so that there is a fear that the
cryptographic communication system is disturbed thereby an
effective system operation being obstructed.

15 (5) If the encryption algorithm is changed, a key for use
by the user may not correspond to that encryption algorithm
to be changed. If a common key encryption algorithm is
changed to a public key encryption algorithm or conversely
if the public key encryption algorithm is changed to the
20 common key encryption algorithm, there is a problem that
the key for use by the user cannot be used for the changed
encryption algorithm.

If the encryption algorithm is changed to an
encryption algorithm having a high intensity, usually, the
25 key length for use is prolonged. Therefore, if the key for
use by the user can be used under the changed encryption

algorithm, there is a problem that the intensity of the encryption is not increased if the same key length is used.

Accordingly, the present invention has been made in views of the above problems and therefore, it is an object
5 of the invention to provide a cryptographic communication method, encryption algorithm sharing management method, encryption algorithm conversion method, and network communication system capable of distributing an encryption algorithm with the safety and converting it in a state that
10 time and labor required therefor are reduced.

It is another object of the invention to provide a cryptographic communication method, encryption algorithm sharing management method, encryption algorithm conversion method and network communication system in which encryption
15 algorithms operated by a plurality of users share the same encryption algorithm as a result of the encryption algorithm conversion and preferable for changing the shared encryption algorithm to other encryption algorithm.

To achieve the above object, according to a first
20 aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cryptographic communication method wherein when different encryption algorithms are operated at a transmission side and a reception side, the transmission side encrypts an encryption algorithm operated at the transmission side with
25 an encryption algorithm operated at the reception side and transmits the encrypted algorithm to the reception side.

According to a second aspect of the present invention,
there is provided a cryptographic communication method
wherein information on encryption algorithm operated at a
transmission side and information on an encryption
5 algorithm operated at a reception side are obtained from
the transmission side and when different encryption
algorithms are operated at the transmission side and the
reception side, an encryption algorithm operated at the
transmission side is encrypted with an encryption algorithm
10 operated at the reception side and transmitted to the
reception side.

According to a third aspect of the present invention,
there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing
management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for
15 cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from
a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier
indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user
of a reception side; and querying a data base in which a
correspondence between the user identifier indicating the
20 user and the encryption algorithm operated by the user is
preliminarily described about each user and then retrieving
encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
transmission side and the encryption algorithm operated by
the user of the reception side, wherein if the encryption
25 algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is
different from the encryption algorithm operated by the

user of the reception side, data indicating the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user of a reception side; querying a data base in which a correspondence between the user identifier indicating the user, an encryption algorithm operated by the user and an encryption key thereof is preliminarily described about each user so as to obtain the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and the encryption key thereof and the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and the encryption key thereof, wherein if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, data indicating the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and encryption key produced based on the encryption key operated by the user of the reception side corresponding to a key length of the encryption

algorithm is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to a fifth embodiment of the present invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user of a reception side; and querying a data base in which a correspondence between user identifier indicating the user, an encryption algorithm operated by the user and an encryption key thereof is preliminarily described about each user so as to obtain the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and the encryption key thereof and the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and the encryption key thereof, wherein if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, signature data produced for the encryption key operated by the user of the transmission side is transmitted to the user of the transmission side and data obtained by encrypting the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and

signature data produced for an encryption key operated by the user of the reception side are transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention,
5 there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user
10 of a reception side; and querying a data base in which a correspondence between the user identifier indicating the user, an encryption algorithm operated by the user and an encryption key thereof is preliminarily described about each user so as to obtain an encryption algorithm operated
15 by the user of the transmission side and an encryption key thereof and an encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and an encryption key thereof, wherein if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption
20 algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, signature data produced for the encryption key operated by the user of the transmission side is transmitted to the user of the transmission side and data indicating the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
25 transmission side and encryption key produced based on the encryption key operated by the user of the reception side

corresponding to a key length of the encryption algorithm
is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the
user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of
the reception side with the signature data produced
5 corresponding to the encryption key operated by the user of
the reception side.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention,
there is provided Network communication system composed by
connecting a plurality of users, comprising at least an
10 encryption key management station to be connected from a
user of a transmission side, the encryption key management
station obtaining, from the user of the transmission side,
information indicating an encryption algorithm operated by
the user and information indicating an encryption algorithm
15 operated by a user of a reception side and if different
encryption algorithms are operated by the users of the
transmission side and the reception side, encrypting the
encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
transmission side with the encryption algorithm operated by
20 the user of reception side and transmitting it to the user
of the reception side.

According to an eighth aspect of the present invention,
there is provided network communication system composed by
connecting a plurality of users, comprising at least an
25 encryption key management station to be connected from a
user of a transmission side, the encryption key management

station comprising data base in which a correspondence between a user identifier indicating the user and an encryption algorithm operated by the user is preliminarily described about each user;

- 5 wherein when a communication is carried out from the user of the transmission side to a user of a reception side, a user identifier indicating the user and a reception side user identifier are obtained from the user of the transmission side and the data base is queried with the
- 10 obtained identifier as a key so as to obtain an encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and an encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, and
- if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
- 15 transmission side is different from the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and
- 20 transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from

25 a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user

of a reception side; querying a data base in which a
correspondence between the user identifier indicating the
user and an encryption algorithm operated by the user is
preliminarily described about each user so as to retrieve
5 an encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
transmission side and an encryption algorithm operated by
the user of the reception side; and if the encryption
algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is
different from the encryption algorithm operated by the
10 user of the reception side, data indicating the encryption
algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is
encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the
user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of
reception side.

15 According to a tenth aspect of the present invention,
there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing
management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for
cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from
a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier
20 indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user
of a reception side; and querying a data base in which a
correspondence between the user identifier indicating the
user, an encryption algorithm operated by the user and an
encryption key is preliminarily described about each user
25 so as to obtain the encryption algorithm operated by the
user of the transmission side and an encryption key thereof

and the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and an encryption key, wherein if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption

5 algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, data indicating the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and the encryption key produced based on an encryption key operated by the user of the reception side corresponding to a key length of the encryption
10 algorithm is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of reception side and transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to an eleventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm
15 sharing management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user of a reception side; and querying a data
20 base in which a correspondence between the user identifier indicating the user, an encryption algorithm operated by the user and an encryption key is preliminarily described about each user so as to obtain the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and the
25 encryption key thereof and the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and encryption

key thereof, wherein if the encryption algorithm operated
by the user of the transmission side is different from the
encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception
side, signature data produced for an encryption key
5 operated by the user of the transmission side is
transmitted to the user of the transmission side and the
encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
transmission side is encrypted with the encryption
algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and
10 transmitted to the user of the reception side with
signature data produced for an encryption key operated by
the user of the reception side.

According to a twelfth aspect of the present invention,
there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing
15 management method for sharing an encryption algorithm for
cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from
a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier
indicating the user and a user identifier indicating a user
of a reception side; and querying a data base in which a
20 correspondence between the user identifier indicating the
user, encryption algorithm operated by the user and
encryption key is preliminarily described about each user
so as to obtain the encryption algorithm operated by the
user of the transmission side and an encryption key thereof
25 and the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the
reception side and encryption key, wherein if the

encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, signature data produced for an encryption key operated by the user of the transmission side is transmitted to the user of the transmission side and data indicating the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side and encryption key produced based on an encryption key operated by the user of the reception side corresponding to a key length of the encryption algorithm is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of the reception side with signature data produced corresponding to the encryption key operated by the user of the reception side.

According to a thirteenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a network communication system composed by connecting a plurality of users, comprising at least an encryption key management station to be connected from a user of a transmission side, the encryption key management station obtaining, from the user of the transmission side, information indicating an encryption algorithm operated by the user and information indicating an encryption algorithm operated by a user of a reception side, and when different encryption algorithms are operated by the user of the transmission side and the user of the

reception side, encrypting the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side with the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of reception side.

5 According to a fourteenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a network communication system composed by connecting a plurality of users, comprising at least an encryption key management station to be connected from a user of a transmission side, the encryption key management station comprising a data base in which a
10 correspondence between a user identifier indicating a user and an encryption algorithm operated by the user is preliminarily described about each user;
wherein when a communication is carried out from the user of transmission side to a user of a reception side, a user
15 identifier indicating the user and a reception side user identifier are obtained from the user of the transmission side, and the data base is queried with the obtained identifier as a key so as to obtain an encryption algorithm
20 operated by the user of the transmission side and encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, and if the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is different from the encryption algorithm operated by the user of the reception side, the
25 encryption algorithm operated by the user of the transmission side is encrypted with the encryption

algorithm operated by the user of the reception side and transmitted to the user of the reception side.

According to a fifteenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cryptographic communication method wherein if different encryption algorithms are
5 operated by a transmission side and a reception side, the encryption algorithm operated by the reception side is encrypted with the encryption algorithm operated by the transmission side and transmitted to the transmission side.

10 According to a sixteenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cryptographic communication method wherein information indicating an encryption algorithm operated by a transmission side and information
15 indicating an encryption algorithm operated by a reception side are obtained from the transmission side and when different encryption algorithms are operated by the transmission side and the reception side, the encryption algorithm operated by the reception side is encrypted with
20 the encryption algorithm operated by the transmission side and transmitted to the transmission side.

According to a seventeenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm sharing management method for sharing an encryption
25 algorithm for cryptographic communication, comprising the steps of: from a user of a transmission side, obtaining a user identifier indicating the user and a user identifier

indicating a user of a reception side; querying a data base
in which a correspondence between the user identifier
indicating user and encryption algorithm operable by the
user is preliminarily described about each user so as to
5 obtain an encryption algorithm operable by the user of the
transmission side and an encryption algorithm operable by
the user of the reception side; determining whether or not
there is an encryption algorithm operable by the user of
the transmission side and the user of the reception side
10 commonly; and if the commonly operable encryption algorithm
exists, it is notified the user of the transmission side
that cryptographic communication at the user of the
transmission side and the user of the reception side is
enabled.

15 According to an eighteenth aspect of the present
invention, there is provided an encryption algorithm
conversion method for converting an operating first
encryption algorithm to other second encryption algorithm
comprising: querying a data base in which a correspondence
20 between a user identifier indicating a user, an encryption
algorithm operated by the user and an encryption key
thereof is preliminarily described about each user with a
user whose encryption algorithm is to be converted as a key
so as to obtain a first encryption algorithm operated by
25 the user and a first encryption key; and supplying first
and second signature data written in the first and second

encryption keys with a first management secret key
preliminarily allocated for management and operated on the
first encryption algorithm, public key data obtained by
encrypting a second public key corresponding to a second
5 management secret key operated on the second encryption
algorithm preliminarily allocated for management with the
first encryption algorithm, a second encryption algorithm
encrypted with the first encryption algorithm and signature
data produced based on the second management secret key to
10 the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an explanatory diagram showing a network
communication system;

15 Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram showing a
functional structure of respective portions of the network
communication system;

Figs. 3A and 3B are explanatory diagrams showing
information to be stored in data base accessed by a key
management work station, Fig. 3A indicates information to
20 be stored in a network encryption algorithm control data
base and Fig. 3B indicates information to be stored in the
network key management data base;

Figs. 4A and 4B are explanatory diagrams showing
information to be stored in data base accessed by a
25 personal computer, Fig. 4A indicates information to be

stored in encryption algorithm control data base and Fig. 4B indicates information to be stored in a key structure management data base;

Fig. 5 is a schematic data flow diagram showing conversion of encryption algorithm to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 6 is a schematic data flow diagram showing encryption algorithm conversion for common key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 7 is a data flow diagram showing cryptographic communication by common key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing a former half portion of encryption algorithm conversion procedure by common key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 9 is a flow chart showing a latter half portion of encryption algorithm conversion procedure by common key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Figs. 10A and 10B are explanatory diagrams showing a change of an encryption key of common key cipher to which the present invention is applied; Fig. 10A indicates a case in which the key length is shortened, and Fig. 10B indicates a case in which the key length is prolonged;

Fig. 11 is a data flow diagram showing cryptographic communication by public key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 12 is a data flow chart showing encryption algorithm conversion by public key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

5 Fig. 13 is a flow chart showing a former half portion of encryption algorithm conversion procedure by public key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing a latter half portion of encryption algorithm conversion procedure by public key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

10 Fig. 15 is an explanatory diagram showing a change of encryption key of public key cipher to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 16 is a data flow chart showing cryptographic communication system by public key cipher algorithm to which the present invention is applied;

15 Fig. 17 is a data flow chart showing encryption algorithm conversion by a portable information processing apparatus to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 18 is a data flow chart showing other embodiment of encryption algorithm conversion by a portable information processing apparatus to which the present invention is applied;

20 Fig. 19 is an explanatory diagram showing a data base relating to encryption key and encryption algorithm to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 20 is a data flow diagram showing a case in which

a encryption key is generated by user in encryption algorithm conversion to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 21 is a block diagram showing cryptographic communication system by public key cipher algorithm to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 22 is an explanatory diagram showing other embodiment of network communication system;

Fig. 23 is an explanatory diagram showing an operation of encryption of key recovery function to which the present invention is applied;

Fig. 24 is an explanatory diagram showing an operation of decryption of key recovery function to which the present invention is applied; and

Fig. 25 is a block diagram showing cryptographic communication system using IC card based on public key cipher algorithm to which the present invention is applied.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

First, functions of a network communication system to which the present invention is applied will be described.

In a cryptographic communication system to which the present invention is applied, (1) a key management station

for controlling an encryption algorithm is placed, (2)
condition of encryption algorithm operated by each user is
grasped by the key management station, (3) an encryption
algorithm for use by each user is set up and (4) encryption
5 algorithm for use by each user is converted.

The respective functions will be described below.

First, the key management station for controlling the
encryption algorithm of (1) will be described. A key
management station for controlling encryption algorithm is
10 placed in the cryptographic communication system, so as to
register all encryption algorithms used by user and
encryption algorithms to be updated in this key management
station.

Next, the function for grasping the condition of the
15 encryption algorithm operated by each user of (2) will be
described.

Each user carrying out the cryptographic communication
and the key management station are connected to each other
through such an electronic communication line as a
20 satellite communication line or ground communication line
or the like and the key management station always monitors
the condition of the encryption algorithm operated by the
user through the line. If a necessity of the cryptographic
communication arises between users, whether or not the
25 cryptographic communication is possible is determined by
judging from the operating condition of the encryption

algorithm to be operated by the user.

Further, the key management station grasps the operating condition of the encryption algorithm of each user and information of the key for use by the user. If
5 the encryption algorithm operated by the user is changed, information for converting the key is created so as to be capable of adapting to an encryption algorithm in which the key for use by the user is changed and then transmitted to that user.

10 Next, the function for setting up the encryption algorithm for use by each user of (3) will be described about a case (i) in which cryptographic communication is carried out between respective users and a case (ii) in which the intensity of the encryption algorithm for use by
15 each user is converted to an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than that encryption algorithm.

First, the case in which the cryptographic communication is carried out between the respective users
20 of (i) will be described.

Possible cases include a case (a) in which the users intending to carry out the cryptographic communication share the same encryption algorithm and a case (b) in which the users intending to carry out the cryptographic
25 communication do not share the same encryption algorithm. Corresponding functions to these cases will be described

below.

(a) Case where users intending to carry out cryptographic communication share the same encryption algorithm

1. The key management station determines that cryptographic communication between the users is possible and transmits this determination result to the users.

2. The users receive this result and execute the cryptographic communication by the shared encryption algorithm.

10 (b) Case where users intending to carry out cryptographic communication do not share the same encryption algorithm

1. The key management station determines that cryptographic communication between the users is impossible.

2. Considering user request, restriction and the like of a registered encryption algorithm, the key management station sets up encryption algorithm for use in cryptographic communication between the users and transmits this encryption algorithm to the users through a communication line.

20 If there is a necessity of converting a key for use by user so as to be applicable for a new set encryption algorithm, information for this key conversion is created and transmitted to the user through a communication line.

3. The user converts the transmitted encryption algorithm and as required, the key for use and executes cryptographic communication.

25

Next, the case in which the intensity of the encryption algorithm for use by each user of (ii) is converted to encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than that encryption algorithm will be described.

To convert the intensity of the encryption algorithm to an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than that encryption algorithm, for example, it can be considered that (a) with respect to the encryption algorithm used by the user, the user supplies an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than the encryption algorithm used by the user, and (b) with respect to the encryption algorithm used by the user, the key management station possesses an encryption algorithm generating apparatus for the encryption algorithm for use by the user and supplies an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than that encryption algorithm. The function of each case will be described below.

(a) Case where with respect to the encryption algorithm used by the user, the user supplies an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than the encryption algorithm used by the user

1. An encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than the encryption

algorithm used by the user is produced and transmitted to the key management station and registered therein.

2. The key management station sets up a user using an encryption algorithm except the registered encryption
5 algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher, as required, produces information for converting a key for use by the user and then transmits the aforementioned encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher and information
10 for key conversion to this user.

3. The user receiving the encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher and information for key conversion converts the key for use using the transmitted information for key conversion as
15 required and then carries out cryptographic communication according to the transmitted encryption algorithm.

(b) Case where with respect to the encryption algorithm used by the user, the key management station possesses an encryption algorithm generating apparatus for the
20 encryption algorithm for use by the user and supplies an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than that encryption algorithm.

1: the key management station produces an encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent
25 to or higher than the encryption algorithm used by the user and registers the produced encryption algorithm.

2: The key management station sets up user using an encryption algorithm other than the registered encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher, as required produces information for

5 converting a key used by the user and then transmits the encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher and information for key conversion to this user.

3. The user receiving the encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher and information for key conversion converts the key for use by using the received information for key conversion as required and carries out cryptographic communication according to the received encryption algorithm.

15 Next, a function for converting the encryption algorithm for use by user of (4) will be described.

1: The key management station produces the encryption algorithm for conversion by user and as required, information for conversion of the key for use by each user according to the above (3).

20 2: The key management station encrypts the encryption algorithm for conversion by each user and key conversion information produced as required by using the encryption algorithm operated by the user and transmits it to each user through communication line.

25 3: Each user decrypts data transmitted from the key

management station using the operated encryption algorithm so as to obtain the encryption algorithm for conversion and key conversion information.

4: Each user changes the operated encryption algorithm and
5 key for use according to the aforementioned decrypted data.

5. Each user encrypts a statement "encryption algorithm change completed" using the changed encryption algorithm and transmits it to the key management station through communication line.

10 6: The key management station decrypts the encrypted and transmitted data and obtains the statement "encryption algorithm change completed" and confirms that user's encryption algorithm has converted and the encryption function operates properly.

15 Next, a first embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 1-5. In this embodiment, an outline of encryption algorithm conversion to which the present invention is applied will be described.

20 First, a network communication system to which the present invention is applicable will be described with reference to Fig. 1. Here, an example of a structure in which a plurality of personal computers (information processing apparatuses) 100, 200 used by users are connected to the key management station 400, will be
25 described.

The encryption algorithms operated by this system are

assumed to be $A[1]-A[n]$, $B[1]-B[m]$ and these encryption algorithms are controlled by the key management station. The encryption algorithms $A[1]-A[n]$ are encryption algorithms belonging to the same series A having an intensity equivalent or different. The key management station updates security by changing encryption algorithm to a new encryption algorithm of the same series having an intensity equivalent to or higher than the encryption algorithm concerned.

10 The key management station manages the encryption algorithm operated by the user and user ID with correspondence therebetween assuming that the user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $A[1]$ is $U[A_1, 1_1]-U[A_1, N_1]$, user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $A[2]$ is $U[A_2, 1_2]-U[A_2, N_2]$, user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $A[n]$ is $U[A_n, 1_n]-U[A_n, N_n]$, user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $B[1]$ is $U[B_1, 1_1]-U[B_1, M_1]$, user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $B[2]$ is $U[B_2, 1_2]-U[B_2, M_2]$, user ID of user operating the encryption algorithm $B[m]$ is $U[B_m, 1_m]-U[B_m, M_m]$.

Referring to Fig. 1, personal computers 100 used by a user operating one of the encryption algorithms belonging to series A (hereinafter referred to as encryption algorithm A), personal computers 200 used by a user operating one of the encryption algorithms belonging to

series B (hereinafter referred to as encryption algorithm B), and the key management station 400 provided with a key management work station 500 are connected through a network.

In this network communication system, cryptographic communication, encryption algorithm conversion and the like are carried out by means of software processing of the personal computers 100, 200 such as an information processing unit used by the users and key management work station 500.

Fig. 22 shows a different embodiment from Fig. 1 of the network communication system in which a plurality of encryption algorithms exist. In this embodiment of the network communication system, algorithm A, algorithm B, algorithm C and algorithm D exist as the encryption algorithm.

Usually, the encryption algorithm for use is determined by user's selection.

There are some encryption algorithms which user don't want to use because of the characteristic of the encryption algorithm.

In the network communication system shown in Fig. 22, the aforementioned four encryption algorithms A, B, C and D are used. In this Figure, a range of users using the encryption algorithm A is indicated with a solid line, a range of users using the encryption algorithm B is indicated with a dot and dash line, a range of users using

the encryption algorithm C is indicated with two dots and dash line and a range of users using the encryption algorithm D is indicated with broken line.

5 Users located in a region in which the encryption algorithms overlap can use plural encryption algorithms.

The key management station stores users capable of using each encryption algorithm in data base.

10 If a request for cryptographic communication occurs between users, the key management work station grasps the operating condition of the encryption algorithm of the transmission side and reception side according to the aforementioned data base.

15 If the transmission side and reception side share the same encryption algorithm, cryptographic communication between the both is continued.

If the same encryption algorithm is not shared, whether or not the same encryption algorithm can be held by the transmission side and reception side is determined according to the aforementioned data base. If the sharing
20 is impossible, it is notified the both that the cryptographic communication is disabled.

Whether or not the encryption algorithm can be shared between the users is determined depending on user's convenience. The range of users using each encryption
25 algorithm is changed by user's convenience.

The key management work station changes information

stored in data base for indicating users using each encryption algorithm by notification from the user.

Next, software processing function of each information processing unit (personal computer, key management work station) in this network communication system will be described with reference to Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, the personal computers 100 and 200 are connected to each other so as to construct a network. Hereinafter, a case where the personal computer 100 is used by a transmission side user and the personal computer 200 is used by a reception side user will be described. It is needless to say that because the personal computers 100, 200 have the same structure, they can be used for both. The key management work station 500 is connected to the personal computer 100 for use by at least the transmission side user.

The personal computer 100 (200) for use by the transmission side (reception side) user includes key structure control function 110 (210), encryption algorithm control function 120 (220), scramble function 130 (230), descramble function 140 (240) and cryptographic communication control function 150 (250). A key structure control data base 180 (280) and encryption algorithm data base 190 (290) are connected to the personal computer 100 (200) so as to be accessible therefrom.

These data bases may be provided separately from the

personal computers 100, 200 or may be provided integrally therewith. The aforementioned data bases may be shared by plural personal computers.

The aforementioned key management work station 500 includes scramble function 530, descramble function 540, cryptographic communication control function 550, encryption algorithm generating function 595, network encryption control function 560, and network key management function 570, and is connected to network encryption algorithm control data base 590 and network key management control data base 580 so as to be accessible therefrom. These data bases may be provided separately of the key management work station 500 or may be provided integrally with the key management work station 500.

Next, the function of the key management work station 500 will be described with reference to Fig. 2.

A user ID of each user and encryption algorithm are registered in the network encryption algorithm control data base DB590 with correspondence therebetween.

The network encryption algorithm control function 570 controls the data bases for the aforementioned two kinds of data, and carries out registration, updating and deletion of the encryption algorithm for use by each user.

The encryption algorithm generating function 595 has a function for generating the encryption algorithm of series A.

As for the encryption intensity of the encryption algorithm, the longer the length of an operating key, the more difficult decryption becomes so that the encryption intensity increases thereby improving the security.

5 Further, if even in the encryption algorithm having the same key length, the operating encryption algorithm is changed periodically, a period in which a cipher is attacked can be limited thereby improving the security on communication.

10 The encryption algorithm generating function 595 generates different encryption algorithms belonging to series A in which the key length for use is the same as or longer than current encryption algorithms belonging to series A.

15 The network key structure control function 570 controls the key to be operated by this system and stores information of the key to be used by the user in the network key structure control data base.

The scramble function 530 is a function for encrypting
20 data to be transmitted by the key management station 400 (see Fig. 1) to the user and the descramble function 540 is a function for decrypting the encoded data received by the key management station 400 (see Fig. 1) from the user.

The network key management function 570 controls the
25 key to be used for encrypting and decrypting and stores information about the key for use by the user with a

correspondence to the encryption algorithm operated for the key structure control data bases 180, 280.

Next, the software function of the personal computers 100 (200) which are information processing units for use by the user will be described.

The encryption algorithm control function 120 (220) controls the encryption algorithm operated by the user.

The operating encryption algorithm converts the encryption algorithm according to an instruction from the key management work station 500. The encryption algorithm control data base stores the encryption algorithms to be distributed by the key management station 400 (see Fig. 1).

The scramble function 130 (230) is a function for encrypting data to be transmitted by the user and the descramble function 140 (240) is a function for decrypting the encrypted data received by the user.

The key structure control function 110 (210) controls the key for use for encrypting and decrypting and stores the keys with a correspondence to the encryption algorithm to be operated by the key structure control data base 180 (280).

Next, the content of information to be stored in data base to be accessed from the aforementioned key management work station will be described with reference to Figs. 3A and 3B.

In Fig. 3A, user ID for identifying a user, name of

the encryption algorithm to be operated by the user, a
correspondence to the encryption algorithm version,
updating date, key management station ID for identifying
the key management station, name of the encryption
5 algorithm to be operated by the key management station, a
correspondence with the encryption algorithm version and
its updating date are stored in the network encryption
algorithm control data base.

10 In Fig. 3B, user ID for identifying a user, name of
the encryption algorithm to be operated by the user, a
correspondence between encryption algorithm version and key
information indicating the encryption key to be operated,
its updating date, key management station ID for
15 identifying the key management station, name of the
encryption algorithm to be operated by the key management
station, a correspondence between the encryption algorithm
version and key information indicating the encryption key
to be operated, and its updating date are stored in the
network key management data base.

20 Next, the content of information to be stored in the
data base accessible from the personal computer for use by
user will be described with reference to Figs. 4A and 4B.

In Fig. 4A, a name of the encryption algorithm, a
correspondence of the encryption algorithm version, and its
25 updating date are stored in the encryption algorithm
control data base.

In Fig. 4B, a name of the encryption algorithm, encryption algorithm version, a correspondence to user key information indicating user's encryption key, and its updating date, and a name of the encryption algorithm, encryption algorithm version, a correspondence to key information of the key management station indicating the encryption key of the key management station, and its updating date are stored in the key management data base.

Referring to Fig. 7, an outline of cryptographic communication of a case where both the transmission side and reception side users share the same encryption algorithm (assuming that a common key cipher is operated here) will be described. In this case, it is assumed that the transmission side user is A, the reception side user is B and the transmission data to be transmitted therebetween is M.

The user U[A] specifies the user U[B] relative to the key management work station 500 and requests to issue a session key for use in cryptographic communication.

The key management work station 500 receives this request and issues the user U[B] with a session key which enables cryptographic communication to the user U[A].

If the user U[A] receives this session key, by using it with the scramble function 130 of the personal computer for use, data M is encrypted and transmitted to user U[B] as an encrypted statement.

The user U[B] stores the same encryption algorithm as the user U[A] in the encryption algorithm data base 190. As a result, the user U[B] decrypts the encrypted statement transmitted from the user U[A] by the descramble function
5 140 to obtain data M.

On the other hand, as a case where the operating encryption algorithm differs between the transmission side and reception side users, for example, in the operating encryption algorithms A[1]-A[n], B[1]-B[m], sometimes a
10 plurality of encryption algorithms in which methods of the common key encryption algorithm and public key encryption algorithm are different exist.

If the user U[A] carries out cryptographic communication for the user U[B], in case where both the
15 users share the same encryption algorithm, the cryptographic communication can be carried out without any special treatment. However, if the same encryption algorithm is not shared, the encryption algorithm possessed by user is converted so as to make both the users share the
20 same encryption algorithm thereby achieving the cryptographic communication.

This encryption algorithm conversion is carried out depending on the condition of the encryption algorithm possessed by the user as follows.

25 (1) The encryption algorithms of the same series are controlled based on the version number. The encryption

algorithm is converted to the other encryption algorithm of the same series having the same or a different encryption intensity.

(2) The common key encryption algorithm is converted to other common key encryption algorithm.

(3) The public key encryption algorithm is converted to other public key encryption algorithm.

(4) The common key encryption algorithm is converted to other public key encryption algorithm.

(5) The public key encryption algorithm is converted to other common key encryption algorithm.

The encryption algorithm mentioned here means a procedure for converting a series of data. The encryption mentioned here means data conversion and the decryption means inverse conversion of converted data.

For example, it is assumed that K is binary data string and M is another binary data string.

Consider the following π function which is determined by K.

$$\pi(M) = M \text{ xor } K$$

where xor indicates exclusive - OR between M and K.

The data string M has been converted by $\pi(M)$. If $\pi(M)$ xor K is obtained with respect to this converted data,

$$\pi(M) \text{ xor } K = (M \text{ xor } K) \text{ xor } K$$

$$= M \text{ xor } (K \text{ xor } K)$$

$$= M$$

The data M is obtained by inversely converting the

converted data $\pi(M)$. The procedure for data conversion and inverse conversion like this π function is called encryption algorithm.

Next, assuming N data $\{K_1, K_2, K_3, \dots, K_N\}$, a function
5 corresponding to data K_1 is assumed to be π_1 . From this N π functions, the following two pairs of the functions f, g are considered.

$$f = \pi_1 \circ \pi_2 \circ \pi_3 \circ \dots \circ \pi_N$$

$$g = \pi_N \circ \pi_{N-1} \circ \pi_{N-2} \circ \dots \circ \pi_1$$

10 These two pairs of the functions f, g are obtained by computation on the n π functions sequentially. Therefore, f(M) and g(M) indicate a procedure for conversion of data M and the converted data f (M) is inversely converted by the function g to introduce data M.

15 Therefore, it can be considered that the functions f, g are a single encryption algorithm, so that it can be considered that the function f corresponds to encrypting of data and the function g corresponds to decrypting of data.

If the computation order of N π functions or the value
20 of parameter K_1 is changed, another encryption algorithm can be obtained.

The encryption algorithm of the same series mentioned in the aforementioned encryption algorithm conversion means an encryption algorithm obtained by changing an order of a
25 part of the data conversion or assembling by changing the values of parameters for use. Hereinafter, the encryption

algorithm of the same series is referred to as encryption algorithm of a different version.

If such encryption algorithm conversion is carried out, the key possessed by the user is also converted
5 corresponding to the converted encryption algorithm.

Next, an outline of the encryption algorithm conversion operated in network communication to which the present invention is applied will be described with reference to Fig. 5.

10 Here, it is assumed that the transmission side user is U[A] and the encryption algorithm operated by the U[A] is encryption algorithm EANG. On the other hand, it is assumed that the reception side user is U[B] and encryption algorithm operated by the U[B] is encryption algorithm EBF.

15 The encryption algorithm EANG and encryption algorithm EBF are stored in the network encryption algorithm control data base 590 of the key management work station 500 by making the former correspond to the user ID of the user U[A] and the latter correspond to the user ID of the user
20 U[B].

Further, it is assumed that a key for the key management work station 500 to carry out cryptographic communication with the user U[A] based on the encryption algorithm EANG is K_A and a key for the key management work
25 station 500 to carry out cryptographic communication with the user U[B] based on encryption algorithm EBF is K_B .

The key K_A is stored in the key structure control data base 180 of the user $U[A]$ and the key K_B is stored in the key structure control data base 280 of the user $U[B]$.

Further, the key K_A is stored in the network key management data base 580 of the key management work station 500 with a correspondence to the user ID of the user $U[A]$ and the key K_B is stored therein with a correspondence to the user ID of the user $U[B]$.

By taking a case where the user $U[A]$ carries out cryptographic communication with the user $U[B]$ under the above described environment, an outline of the encryption algorithm conversion to be operated in this network communication system will be described.

1: The user $U[A]$ specifies a reception side person by the user ID of the user $U[B]$ by the cryptographic communication control function 150 and sends "a request for session key issue" to the cryptographic communication control function 550 of the key management work station 500.

2: The "request for session key issue" is sent to the network encryption algorithm control function 560 of the key management work station 500. The network encryption algorithm control function 560 retrieves in the network encryption algorithm data base 590 based on the user ID of the user $U[A]$ and user ID of the user $U[B]$.

The encryption algorithm to be operated by the user $U[A]$ is encryption algorithm EANG and the encryption

algorithm to be operated by the user $U[B]$ is encryption
algorithm EBF. Thus, it is determined that the same
encryption algorithm is not shared and this result is
transmitted to the cryptographic communication control
5 function 550.

3: Receiving this result, the cryptographic communication
control function 550 starts conversion of the encryption
algorithm of the user $U[B]$ from EBF to EANG.

First, the key L_B is generated to carry out
10 cryptographic communication with the user $U[B]$ with
encryption algorithm EANG and "descramble function
confirmation end" is specified in plain text data MD.

Next, the encryption algorithm EANG and key L_B are
encrypted by the encryption algorithm EBF and key K_B so as
15 to create the cipher statement $EBF_{KB}(EANG)$ and $EBF_{KB}(L_B)$.

Further, the plain text data MD is encrypted with the
encryption algorithm EANG and key L_B so as to create the
encrypted statement $EANG_{LB}(MD)$. The aforementioned three
encrypted statements are created by the scramble function
20 530 of the key management work station 500.

These three encrypted statements are sent to the user
 $U[B]$ as "encryption algorithm updating request".

4: The user $U[B]$ receiving these three encrypted statements
 $EBF_{KB}(EANG)$, $EBF_{KB}(L_B)$ and $EANG_{LB}(MD)$ decrypts these
25 encrypted statements by the descramble function 240.

First, the encrypted statement $EBF_{KB}(EANG)$ and

encrypted statement $EBF_{KB}(L_B)$ are decrypted by the key K_B stored in the key structure control data base 280 so as to obtain the encryption algorithm EANG and key L_B .

The encryption algorithm control function 220 stores
5 the obtained encryption algorithm EANG in the encryption algorithm data base 290 and updates the operating condition of the encryption algorithm from the encryption algorithm EBF to the encryption algorithm EANG. The key structure control function 210 stores the obtained key L_B in the key
10 structure control data base 280.

In this manner, the encryption algorithm and key are updated.

Next, by using the updated encryption algorithm EANG and key L_B , the encrypted statement $EANG_{LB}(MD)$ is decrypted
15 so as to obtain a plain text data MD. It is confirmed that the obtained plain text data MD is written as "descramble function confirmation is terminated" and then it is confirmed that the descramble function 240 by the converted encryption algorithm EANG is operated properly.

20 5: Next, the plain text data MS is written as "scramble function confirmation is terminated" and by operating the scramble function 230, the encrypted statement $EANG_{LB}(MS)$ is created using the encryption algorithm EANG and key L_B .

This created encrypted statement is distributed to the
25 key management work station 500 as the "encryption algorithm updating report".

6: Receiving the "encryption algorithm updating report",
the key management work station 500 decrypts the encryption
algorithm EANG and key L_B so as to obtain the plain text
data MS. It is confirmed that the obtained plain text data
5 MS is written as "scramble function confirmation is
terminated" and then it is confirmed that the scramble
function 230 by the encryption algorithm EANG converted by
the user U[B] is operated properly. As a result, it is
confirmed that the encryption algorithm conversion, the
10 scramble function 230 and descramble function 240 for
carrying out encrypting and decrypting are operated
properly and then the encryption algorithm conversion is
terminated.

7: As a result of the above procedure, the user U[A] and
15 user U[B] become capable of sharing the same encryption
algorithm EANG. The users U[A] and U[B] restart
cryptographic communication and the key management work
station carries out "session key issue" based on the
algorithm EANG to the user U[A].

20 In the above description, the procedures for
distribution of the encryption algorithm upon encryption,
conversion of the key to be operated and confirmation of
the operation of the converted encryption algorithm have
been described.

25 A detail of the encryption algorithm conversion has
been described. Here, an attention is paid to which the

operating cipher is public key cipher or common key cipher
and then, the encryption algorithm conversion (second
embodiment of the present invention) in a case where the
cryptographic communication system is constructed of the
5 common key cipher will be described and secondly, the
encryption algorithm conversion (third embodiment of the
present invention) in a case where the cryptographic
communication system is constructed of public key cipher
will be described. Because the basic composition of these
10 embodiments is the same as the aforementioned first
embodiment, in the following description, mainly a
different point therefrom will be stated and a detail of
the encryption algorithm conversion of each case will be
described.

15 First, the second embodiment of the present invention
will be described with reference to Figs. 6-10. Here, the
encryption algorithm conversion in the cryptographic
communication system constructed of the common key cipher
will be described. That is, the encryption algorithm
20 conversion in a case where the operating encryption
algorithms A[1]-A[n] and B[1]-B[m] are all common key
encryption algorithms in the cryptographic communication
system of Fig. 1 will be described.

The cryptographic communication based on the common
25 key encryption algorithm will be described with reference
to Figs. 6 and 7.

As a presumption for carrying out cryptographic communication, user ID and a secret key as master key are allocated to each user using information processing unit such as a personal computer from the key management station 500. Then, the master key allocated to each user is registered and controlled in the network key management data base 580 of the key management work station 500 with a correspondence to the user ID. Likewise, the secret key P_{CID} is allocated to the key management station 500 as the master key.

This embodiment uses duplex encryption method in which the encryption algorithm of the scramble key k_s for use in data encryption and the encryption algorithm of the session key for use in dispatch of the descramble key K_D are composed of different encryption algorithms, thereby intending to improve the security as compared to the case where the same encryption algorithm is used. In this embodiment, it is assumed that the encryption algorithm for operating the session key and master key uses the same encryption algorithm.

Hereinafter, by taking a case where cryptographic communication is carried out from the user $u[A]$ to the user $U[B]$, a content of the cryptographic communication will be described.

(1) In case where the user $U[A]$ carries out cryptographic communication with the user $U[B]$, the user $U[A]$ requests

the key management station 500 for issue of the session key. Here, it is assumed that the user U[A] is a transmission side user and the user U[B] is a reception side user. Receiving this session key issue request, the network

5 encryption algorithm control function 560 of the key management work station 500 retrieves in the network encryption algorithm data base 590 and determines whether or not the encryption algorithm used by the user U[A] is the same as that used by the user U[B].

10 (2) When it is determined that the user U[A] and user U[B] use the same encryption algorithm, the network key management function 570 of the key management work station 500 generates a session key P_T with that encryption algorithm. Next, the master key P_{ID} of the transmission

15 side user and the master key P_{YID} of the reception side user are fetched out from the network key management data base 580 and a plain text of the session key P_T is encrypted so as to create the encrypted statements $E_{PID}(P_T)$, $E_{PYID}(P_T)$. This encrypted statement is transmitted to such an

20 information processing unit as a personal computer used by the transmission side user.

(3) In the personal computer for use by the transmission side user, the master key P_{ID} of that user controlling the computer is fetched out from the key structure control data

25 base 180. Using this key, the transmitted session key encrypted is decrypted so as to obtain the session key P_T .

(4) On the other hand, receiving the data M input by the user, the scramble key k_s for encrypting this data M and descramble key K_D for decrypting it are generated.

(5) Next, the data M input by the user is encrypted by the
5 scramble key k_s so as to create an encrypted statement $E_{k_s}(M)$. Likewise, the descramble key K_D is encrypted with the session key P_T so as to create the encrypted statement $E_{P_T}(K_D)$. These two encrypted statements and the
transmitted encrypted statement $E_{P_{YID}}(P_T)$ are transmitted to
10 such information processing unit as a personal computer for use by the reception side user.

(6) The personal computer of the reception side user fetches the master key P_{YID} of this user from the key structure control data base 280 and the encrypted session
15 key $E_{P_{YID}}(P_T)$ by this key is decrypted so as to obtain the session key P_T . Next, the transmitted encrypted descramble key $E_{P_T}(K_D)$ is decrypted with the session key P_T so as to obtain the descramble key K_D .

Finally, the encrypted statement $E_{k_s}(M)$ of data
20 transmitted with this descramble key K_D is decrypted so as to obtain the data M .

If the network encryption algorithm control function of the key management work station 500 determines that the user $U[A]$ and user $U[B]$ do not use the same encryption
25 algorithm, it carries out conversion of the encryption algorithm of the user $U[B]$ for the users $U[A]$ and $U[B]$ to

be able to operate the same encryption algorithm.

Next, the procedure for encryption algorithm conversion of this embodiment will be described with reference to Figs. 6, 8 and 9.

- 5 (1) If the network encryption algorithm control function 560 receives a session key issue request containing user ID of the transmission side user and user ID of the reception side user from the transmission side user and retrieves in the network encryption algorithm data base 590 with the
- 10 transmitted user ID as a key, so as to grasp the operating condition of the encryption algorithm operated by the transmission side user and reception side user. As shown in Fig. 6, the cryptographic communication system applies duplex encryption method by the common key cipher, so that
- 15 two kinds of encryption algorithms, that is, encryption algorithm for use in encrypting of data and encryption algorithm for use in operating the session key are used. If the two kinds of the encryption algorithms operated by the transmission side user and reception side user do not
- 20 agree with each other, cryptographic communication between both the parties cannot be achieved.

If no coincidence occurs as a result of retrieval in the network encryption algorithm data base 590, the encryption algorithm EANG operated by the transmission side

25 user is fetched out. The fetched encryption algorithm is supplied with an identifier for identifying whether it will

be used for encrypting of data or operating the session key.
If the two kinds of the encryption algorithms do not
coincide with each other, the two kinds of the encryption
algorithms are fetched out.

5 Assuming that the encryption algorithm operated by the
reception side user is EBF, this encryption algorithm EBF
is converted to the encryption algorithm EANG fetched out.
(2) The network key management function 570 of the key
management work station 500 generates the session key P_{TA}
10 with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to conversion and
generates the session key P_{TB} with the encryption algorithm
EANG after the conversion. If there is no change in the
algorithm for operating the session key, the P_{TA} is equal to
the P_{TB} . Next, the user ID key of the reception side user
15 is retrieved in the network key management data base 580
and the master key P_{YID} of the reception side user is
fetched out.

 If the encryption algorithm is converted, the key
length of the key to be used for cryptographic
20 communication or bit length increases or decreases.
Therefore, in this case, it is demanded that a change of
the key length of the encryption key is carried out with a
conversion of the encryption algorithm.

 Conversion of the encryption key accompanied by a
25 conversion of the encryption algorithm will be described
with reference to Fig. 10A and Fig. 10B.

A case where the bit number of the key decreases is as follows. As shown in Fig. 10A, redundant bit numbers after the master key P_{YID} of the reception side user and after the master key P_{CID} of the key management station 500 are
5 deleted so as to obtain new master key P_{YIDC} for the reception side user and master key P_{CIDC} for the key management station 500.

On the other hand, a case where the bit number of the key increases is as follows. As shown in Fig. 10B, random
10 numbers YR, CR are generated corresponding to short bit numbers, so that a new master key P_{YIDC} ($P_{YIDC} = P_{YID} \parallel YR$) for the reception side user is obtained by connecting a random number YR to the P_{YID} and a new master key P_{CIDC} ($C_{CIDC} = C_{CID} \parallel CR$) for the network key management work station 500 is
15 obtained by connecting the random number CR to the P_{CID} .

Because there is a possibility that the updated master keys P_{YIDC} , P_{CIDC} of the users are equal to the master keys of the other users, by retrieving the network key management data base 580, it is confirmed if there is same master key
20 or not and if there is a user of the same master key, a new master key of a required length is generated.

(3) The following encrypted statement is produced using the encryption algorithm EBF prior to conversion at the key management work station 500.

25 1: The session key P_{TA} is encrypted with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to conversion and master key P_{YID} so as

to create the encrypted statement $EBF_{PYID}(P_{TA})$.

2: The encryption algorithm EANG is encrypted with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and the session key P_{TA} so as to create the encrypted statement

5 $EBF_{PTA}(EANG)$.

3: The master key P_{YIDC} of the reception side user after the conversion is encrypted with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and session key P_{TA} so as to create the encrypted statement $EBF_{PTA}(P_{YIDC})$. If there is no change

10 in the master key of the reception side user, this encrypted statement is not created.

(4) The following encrypted statement is created using the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion at the key management station 500.

15 1: The session key P_T to be operated by the encryption algorithm after the conversion is encrypted with the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion and the master key P_{YIDC} of the reception side user after the conversion so as to create the encrypted statement

20 $EANG_{PYIDC}(P_{TB})$.

If there is no change in the encryption algorithm for operating the session key, this encrypted statement is the same as the $EBF_{PYID}(P_{TA})$.

2. The session key P_{TB} to be operated by the encryption
25 algorithm after the conversion with the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion and the master key P_{CIDC}

of the key management work station 500 after the conversion has been encrypted so as to create the encrypted statement $EANG_{PCIDC}(P_{TB})$.

If there is no change in the encryption algorithm for operating the session key, this encrypted statement is the same as the encrypted statement $EBF_{PCID}(P_{TA})$ produced by ciphering the session key P_{TA} to be operated based on the encryption algorithm before the conversion with the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion and the master key P_{CID} of the key management work station 500 before the conversion.

3: The plain text data MD is written as "confirmation of descramble function after algorithm conversion is terminated".

A scramble key k_{SC} for encrypting plain text data MD and a descramble key K_{DC} for decrypting both with the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion, are generated.

Next, the data MD is encrypted with the scramble key k_{SC} so as to create an encrypted statement $E_{k_{SC}}(MD)$.

Likewise, the descramble key K_{DC} is encrypted with the session key P_{TB} to be operated with the encryption algorithm after the conversion so as to create the encrypted statement $EANG_{PTB}(K_{DC})$.

(5) At the key management work station 500, three encrypted statements have been produced in the above (3), $EBF_{PYID}(P_{TA})$,

EBF_{PTA}(EANG) and EBF_{PTA} (P_{YIDC}) and four encrypted statements have been produced in the above (4) EANG_{PYIDC}(P_{TB}), EANG_{PCIDC}(P_{TB}), E_{KSC}(MD) AND EANG_{PTB}(K_{dc}). These statements are sent to a reception side user as "encryption algorithm conversion request". Here, the three encrypted statements produced in the above (3) are information for converting the encryption algorithm of the reception side user and the four encrypted statements produced in the above (4) are information for confirming whether or not the converted encryption algorithm operates properly after the encryption algorithm is converted.

(6) After the encryption algorithm of the reception side user is converted and the master key is updated, the reception side user is operating the EBF as the encryption algorithm and possesses the P_{YID} as the mater key. From an encrypted statement transmitted from the key management work station,

1: the encrypted statement EBF_{PYID} (P_{TA}) is decrypted with the P_{YID} as the master key so as to obtain the session key P_{TA}.

2: The encrypted statement EBF_{PTA} (EANG) is decrypted with the session key P_{TA} so as to obtain the encryption algorithm EANG.

3: The encrypted statement EBF_{PTA} (P_{YIDC}) is decrypted with the session key P_{TA} so as to obtain the master key P_{YIDC}.

In the above manner, the reception side user obtains

the encryption algorithm EANG and master key P_{YIDC} . Then,
the obtained encryption algorithm EANG is registered in the
encryption algorithm control data base 290 and the
encryption algorithm to be operated by the encryption
5 algorithm control function 220 is converted from EBF to
EANG.

If the master key of a reception side user is updated,
the master key is changed from P_{YID} to P_{YIDC} by the key
structure control function 210.

10 (7) The descramble function 240 is confirmed by the
encryption algorithm converted by the reception side user.

The encrypted statement transmitted from the key
management work station 500 is decrypted by the descramble
function 240 using the converted encryption algorithm and
15 it is confirmed that the descramble function 240 operates
properly.

1: The encrypted statement $EANG_{PYIDC}(P_{TB})$ is decrypted with
 P_{YIDC} as the master key so as to obtain the session key P_{TB} .
2: The encrypted statement $EANG_{PTB}(k_{DC})$ is decrypted with
20 the session key P_{TB} so as to obtain the descramble key k_{DC} .
3: The encrypted statement $E_{ksc}(MD)$ is decrypted with the
descramble key k_{DC} so as to obtain a plain text data MD.
4: It is confirmed that the plain text data MD is written
as "confirming the descramble function after the algorithm
25 conversion has been terminated" and then it is confirmed
that the descramble function 240 operates properly.

(8) Driving the scramble function 230 using the converted encryption algorithm of a reception side user

To confirm that the scramble function 230 using the converted encryption algorithm operates properly, plain
5 text data is set and encrypted by the scramble function 230 and then transmitted to the key management work station 500.
1: The plain text data MS is written as "algorithm conversion confirmation test is terminated". A scramble key K_{su} for encrypting this plain text data MS with the
10 encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion and a descramble key K_{du} for decrypting are generated. Next, the data MS is encrypted with the scramble key k_{su} so as to produce an encrypted statement $EANG_{ksu}(MS)$. Likewise, the descramble key K_{du} is encrypted with the obtained session
15 key P_{TB} so as to create the encrypted statement $EANG_{PTB}(K_{Du})$.
2: Produced two encrypted statements $EANG_{PTB}(K_{Du})$ and $EANG_{ksu}(MS)$ and an encrypted statement $EANG_{PCIDC}(P_{TB})$ transmitted from the key management work station 500 are returned to the key management work station 500 as "encryption
20 algorithm conversion confirmation request".

(9) Confirmation of encryption algorithm conversion at the key management work station 500

The encrypted statement returned from the reception side user is decrypted so as to confirm that the scramble
25 function 230 for the converted encryption algorithm of the reception side user operates properly. Then, it is

confirmed that the encryption algorithm after the conversion operates properly.

1: The encrypted statement $E_{ANG_{PCIDC}}(P_{TB})$ is decrypted with the master key P_{CIDC} of the key management work station 500 so as to obtain the session key P_{TB} .

2: The encrypted statement $E_{ANG_{PTB}}(K_{DU})$ is decrypted with the session key P_{TB} so as to obtain the descramble key K_{DU} .

3: The encrypted statement $E_{ksu}(MS)$ is decrypted with the descramble key k_{DU} so as to obtain a plain text data MS.

10 4: It is confirmed that the obtained plain text data MS is written as "algorithm conversion confirmation test is terminated" and it is confirmed that the scramble function 230 of a reception side user operates properly. Then, it is confirmed that the encryption algorithm after the
15 conversion operates properly.

In the network communication system in which the common key cipher is operated, the algorithm conversion can be carried out.

As a result of this algorithm conversion, it comes
20 that the user $U[A]$ and user $U[B]$ share the same encryption algorithm. As a result, the user $U[A]$ and user $U[B]$ are enabled to carry out cryptographic communication by the steps shown in Fig. 7.

In this embodiment, in case where the user $U[A]$ and
25 user $U[B]$ possess an encryption algorithm of the same series having the same intensity or having a different

intensity, it is possible to convert to an encryption algorithm having a high intensity by the network encryption algorithm control function 560.

In this case, if the user U[A] has an encryption
5 algorithm having a higher intensity than the user U[B], the encryption algorithm of the user U[B] is converted to an encryption algorithm of the user U[A]. Conversely if the encryption algorithm of the user U[B] has a higher
10 intensity, the encryption algorithm of the user U[A] is converted to that of the user U[B]. This algorithm conversion can be carried out in the same procedures as shown in Figs. 6, 8 and 9.

Next, a case in which the security is improved by raising the encryption intensity of an encryption algorithm
15 controlled by the key management work station 500 or by changing the encryption algorithm version without changing the encryption intensity will be described.

As shown in Fig. 1, the encryption algorithms A[1]-
A[n] are encryption algorithms controlled by the key
20 management work station 500 of the same A cipher series and the key management work station 500 has a function for generating this encryption algorithm. By changing the encryption algorithm, it is possible to change the encryption intensity or procedure for encryption
25 computation. As compared to use of the same encryption algorithm, the security of the cryptographic communication

system can be improved.

The user ID of a user operating the same A series encryption algorithm is $U[A_i, j]$ and the key management work station 500 selects a user which changes the encryption algorithm from these users. Then, by using the function for generating the encryption algorithm, a new encryption algorithm is generated and the newly generated encryption algorithm is distributed to a user determined to change the encryption algorithm.

10 This distribution can be carried out in the same manner as the above described algorithm conversion of the encryption algorithm.

Cases for distributing an encryption algorithm of a different version and an encryption algorithm having a different encryption intensity have been described above.

The encryption algorithm of each user is converted to an encryption algorithm distributed thereto. The encryption algorithm before the conversion is not deleted but stored in the encryption algorithm data base 190, 290 of each user. The key management work station 500 controls the encryption algorithm stored in the encryption algorithm data base 190, 290 of each user by using the network encryption algorithm control data base 590.

Consequently, in case when a request for cryptographic communication from the user $U[A]$ to the user $U[B]$ occurs, if a common encryption algorithm exists in the encryption

algorithm data bases 190, 290 of both the users, the key management work station 500 does not have to distribute any encryption algorithm. If the key management work station 500 dispatches an instruction for changing over to the common encryption algorithm, the cryptographic communication from the user U[A] to the user U[B] is enabled.

The encryption algorithm conversion of a case when the cryptographic communication system is composed of common key ciphers has been described above.

A third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 11-15. Here, encryption algorithm conversion of a network communication system in which a public key cipher is operated or a case where the cryptographic communication system is composed of the public key cipher will be described.

In the network communication system shown in Fig. 1, it is assumed that all the encryption algorithms A[1]-A[n], B[1]-B[m] to be operated are public key cipher algorithms.

Cryptographic communication by the public key cipher algorithm will be described with reference to Fig. 12.

As the public key cipher algorithm, for example, elliptical curve cipher algorithm is applicable. It is assumed that a base point of an elliptical curve necessary for describing computation of this elliptical curve cipher key is P. The elliptical curve cipher has been stated in

for example, "Quick Encryption Method Using Elliptical Curve" by Kazuo Takaragi and Hiroyuki Kurumaya, in Technical Report of IEICE ISEC 97-15(1997-07).

In case when cryptographic communication is carried out, an issue of the session key is received from the network key management function 570 of the key management work station 500, data received based on this key is encrypted so as to create an encrypted statement and then transmitted to the descramble function 240 of a personal computer of a reception side user.

The descramble function 240 decrypts the transmitted encrypted statement so as to obtain data.

As a presumption for operating the cryptographic communication processing portion, a user ID, a secret key d_{ID} as a master key and a public key Q_{ID} ($= P \cdot d_{ID}$: \cdot is computation on elliptical curve) corresponding to this secret key are allocated by the key management work station 500 to each user using such information processing unit as a personal computer. The public key Q_{ID} allocated to user is registered and controlled in the network key management data base 580 of the key management work station 500 with a correspondence to the user ID. Likewise, a secret key d_c as the mater key and a public key Q_c ($= P \cdot d_c$: \cdot is computation on elliptical curve) corresponding to this secret key are allocated to the key management work station 500. The public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 is

open to all users of this system.

According to this embodiment, data encryption is carried out with the scramble key K_s and data decrypting is carried out with the descramble key K_D . Distribution of this descramble key K_D is carried out by the elliptical curve cipher which is a public key cipher. As a common key encryption algorithm for operating the scramble key K_s , descramble key K_D , for example, MULTI2 encryption algorithm can be used. The MULTI2 encryption algorithm (Hitachi, "MULTI2", Registration of cryptographic algorithm, ISO9979/0009, NCC, UK (1994)) is an encryption algorithm which has achieved actual performance in for example, CS digital broadcasting (digital broadcasting using communication satellite).

Hereinafter, a case where cryptographic communication is carried out from the user $U[A]$ to the user $U[B]$ will be described. It is assumed that the user $U[A]$ is transmission side user and the user $U[B]$ is reception side user.

(1) Upon cryptographic communication from the user $U[A]$ to the user $U[B]$, the user $U[A]$ requests the key management work station 500 for session key issue. Receiving this session key issue request, the network encryption algorithm control function 560 of the key management work station 500 retrieves in the network encryption algorithm data base 590 so as to determine whether or not the encryption algorithm

used by the user $U[A]$ is equal to the encryption algorithm used by the user $U[B]$.

(2) If it is determined that the user $U[A]$ and user $U[B]$ use the same encryption algorithm, the network key management function 570 of the key management work station 500 retrieves in the network key management data base 580 with the user ID as a key and fetches out a public key Q_{YID} corresponding to a master key of a reception side user and a public key Q_{ID} corresponding to a master key of the transmission side user.

Signature producing computation is carried out with the secret key d_c which is the master key of the key management work station 500 to the fetched out public key Q_{YID} and public key Q_{ID} so as to create signature data S_{dc} (Q_{YID}) and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$. With this public key Q_{YID} as a session key, the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ are transmitted in combination to the transmission side user so as to issue the session key.

(3) A user receiving the public key Q_{YID} , signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ carries out signature verifying computation on the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ and Q_{YID} using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 so as to confirm that the public key Q_{YID} is a key transmitted from a proper key management work station 500 and a key allocated to a proper reception side user intended to communicate with.

In this manner, the transmission side user receives an issue of a public key for use as a session key.

(4) The transmission side user generates the scramble key K_s for encrypting data M to be transmitted and the
5 descramble key K_D for decrypting.

Next, the data M inputted by the user is encrypted with the scramble key K_s so as to create an encrypted statement $E_{K_s}(M)$.

Further, the descramble key K_D is encrypted with the
10 transmitted public key Q_{YID} as a session key so as to generate an encrypted descramble key $E_{Q_{YID}}(K_D)$.

To guarantee that the data M to be transmitted has been created by the transmission side user, signature producing computation is carried out to the data M to be
15 transmitted with the secret key d_{ID} as a master key allocated to the transmission side user from the key management work station 500 and the signature data $S_{dID}(M)$ is produced.

In case of public key cipher, the transmitted key Q_{YID}
20 can be used as an encryption key as it is.

Five data, that is, two encrypted statements $E_{K_s}(M)$ and $E_{Q_{YID}}(K_D)$, signature data $S_{dID}(M)$ about the data M , signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ about a public key of transmission side user transmitted from the key management work station 500, and
25 public key Q_{ID} of the transmission side user are sent to the reception side user.

(5) Receiving the five data, the reception side user carries out signature verifying computation on the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ and Q_{ID} using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500, so as to confirm that the public key Q_{ID} has been transmitted from a proper key management work station 500, thereby ensuring that that key is a public key allocated to the transmission side user properly.

Then, the encrypted descramble key $E_{Q_{ID}}(K_D)$ is decrypted with the secret key d_{YID} as a master key which is allocated to the reception side user from the key management work station 500 so as to obtain the descramble key K_D .

Next, the encrypted statement $E_{K_S}(M)$ is decrypted with this descramble key K_D so as to obtain the data M .

Finally, signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dID}(M)$ and data M with the public key Q_{ID} transmitted from the transmission side user so as to ensure that the data M is data transmitted from a proper transmission side user.

Consequently, in the network communication system, the user $U[A]$ is capable of carrying out cryptographic communication with the user $U[B]$.

On the other hand, if the encryption algorithm control function determines that the user $U[A]$ and user $U[B]$ don't use the same encryption algorithm, it converts the

encryption algorithm of the user U[B] for both the users U[A] and U[B] to be able to use the same encryption algorithm.

Encryption algorithm conversion in a network

5 communication system operating the public key encryption algorithm will be described with reference to Figs. 11, 13 and 14.

(1) Receiving a session key issue request containing the user ID of the transmission side user and user ID of the reception side user from the transmission side user, the network encryption algorithm control function 560 retrieves in the network encryption algorithm control data base 590 with a transmitted user ID as a key and grasps a condition of the encryption algorithm operated by the transmission side user and reception side user. As shown in Fig. 11, the network communication system employs cryptographic communication system based on duplex encryption method. A common key encryption algorithm is used for data encryption and a public key encryption algorithm is used for operating the session key.

Unless two kinds of the encryption algorithms operated by the transmission side user and reception side user agree, cryptographic communication between the both cannot be carried out.

25 If the two kinds of the encryption algorithms do not agree as a result of querying on the network encryption

algorithm management data base 590, the encryption
algorithm EANG operated by the transmission side user is
fetched out. The fetched encryption algorithm is supplied
with an identifier for indicating whether it is used for
5 data encryption or operation of the session key. Of course,
if each of the two kinds of the encryption algorithms does
not agree, the two kinds of the encryption algorithms are
fetched out.

Assuming that the encryption algorithm operated by the
10 reception side user is EBF, the encryption algorithm is
converted from this encryption algorithm EBF to the fetched
out encryption algorithm EANG.

(2) The network key management function 570 of the key
management work station 500, with the user ID as a key,
15 retrieves in the network key management data base 580 and
fetches out a public key Q_{YID} corresponding to a master key
of a reception side user for the encryption algorithm EBF
before the conversion.

In case where the encryption algorithm is changed to
20 the encryption algorithm EANG, there is a possibility that
the master key cannot be used under the encryption
algorithm EBF before the conversion of the reception side
user. In this case, the network key management function
570 determines whether the master key of the reception side
25 user is compatible for conversion of the encryption
algorithm and if it is determined that there is no

compatibility, a new public key is generated for the reception side user.

As the new master key, the secret key d_{YIDC} is generated and a public key Q_{YIDC} corresponding to this
5 secret key is generated.

In the key management work station, both the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion and encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion are supplied with a corresponding master key.

10 A secret key as a master key corresponding to the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion is d_c and a public key corresponding to this secret key is Q_c .

It is assumed that the secret key which is a master key suitable for the encryption algorithm EANG after
15 conversion is d_{cc} and a public key corresponding to this secret key is Q_{CG} .

(3) The network key management function 570 creates the following encrypted statement and signature data using the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion.

20 1: A scramble key K_{SB} for encrypting the encryption algorithm EANG and secret key d_{YIDC} with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and a descramble key K_{DB} for decrypting are generated.

2: The encryption algorithm EANG and secret key d_{YIDC} is
25 encrypted with the scramble key K_{SB} so as to create the encrypted statement $EBF_{K_{SB}}(EANG)$ and encrypted statement

EBF_{KSB} (d_{YIDC}). Further, the descramble key K_{DB} is encrypted with the fetched public key Q_{YID} as a master key so as to create the encrypted statement $EBF_{QYID}(K_{DB})$.

- 3: Signature producing computation is carried out on the generated secret key D_{YIDC} and public key Q_{YIDC} with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and the secret key d_c which is a master key of the key management work station 500, so as to create the signature data $S_{dc}(d_{YIDC})$ and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YIDC})$.
- 4: Signature producing computation is carried out on the encryption algorithm EANG with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and the secret key d_c which is a master key of the key management work station 500, so as to create signature data $S_{dc}(EANG)$.
- 5: Signature producing computation is carried out on the public key Q_{CG} which is a master key of the key management work station 500 to be applied to the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion, with the encryption algorithm EBF prior to the conversion and the secret key d_c which is a master key of the key management work station 500, so as to create signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{CG})$.

(4) The scramble function 530 creates the following encrypted statement and signature data using the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion.

- 1: The plain text data MD is written as "confirmation of descramble function after algorithm conversion is

terminated".

A scramble key K_{SC} for encrypting the plain text data MD with the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion and a descramble key K_{DC} for decrypting are generated. Next,
5 the data MD is encrypted with the scramble key K_{SC} so as to create the encrypted statement $EANG_{K_{SC}}(MD)$ and then the descramble key K_{DC} is encrypted with the public key Q_{YIDC} to be operated as a session key in the encryption algorithm after the conversion, so as to create the encrypted
10 statement $EANG_{Q_{YIDC}}(K_{DC})$.
2: Signature producing computation is carried out on the generated public key Q_{YIDC} and plain text data MD with the secret key d_{cg} allocated as a master key of the key management work station 500 with the encryption algorithm
15 EANG after the conversion, so as to create signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ and $S_{dcg}(MD)$.
(5) The three encrypted statements $EBF_{Q_{YID}}(K_{DB})$, $EBF_{K_{SB}}(EANG)$, $EBF_{K_{SB}}(d_{YIDC})$ produced in the above (3), four signature data $S_{dc}(d_{YIDC})$, $S_{dc}(Q_{YIDC})$, $S_{dc}(EANG)$ and $S_{dc}(Q_{CG})$, newly generated
20 public key Q_{YIDC} , public key Q_{CG} of the key management work station 500, the two encrypted statements $EANG_{K_{SC}}(MD)$, $EANG_{Q_{YIDC}}(K_{DC})$ produced in the above (4), and two signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$, $S_{dcg}(MD)$ are transmitted to a reception side user as "encryption algorithm conversion request". Here,
25 the encrypted statement and signature data produced in the above (3) are information for converting the encryption

algorithm of the reception side user and the four encrypted statements and signature data produced in the above (4) are information for recognizing whether or not the converted encryption algorithm functions properly after that

5 encryption algorithm is converted.

The network key management function 570 stores the generated public key Q_{YIDC} which is a master key of the reception side user in the network key management data base 580 with a correspondence to the encryption algorithm EANG.

10 (6) Conversion of the encryption algorithm of the reception side user and updating its master key

The reception side user operates EBF as the encryption algorithm and possesses the secret key d_{YID} as its master key and the public key Q_c of the key management work

15 station 500 to be operated by the encryption algorithm EBF.

From the encrypted statement transmitted from the key management work station 500.

1: The encrypted statement $EBF_{QYID}(K_{DB})$ is decrypted with the secret key d_{YID} as the master key so as to obtain the
20 descramble key K_{DB} . Next, the encrypted statement $EBF_{KSB}(EANG)$ is decrypted with this descramble key K_{DB} so as to obtain the encryption algorithm EANG. Signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dc}(EANG)$ and the obtained encryption algorithm EANG with
25 the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 so as to ensure that the obtained encryption algorithm EANG

has been transmitted from a proper key management work station 500.

2: The encrypted statement $EBF_{K_{SB}}(d_{YIDC})$ is decrypted using the descramble key K_{DB} and then a secret key d_{YIDC} is
5 obtained as a master key of a given user to be operated on the converted encryption algorithm EANG.

Using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500, signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dc}(d_{YIDC})$ and the obtained secret key
10 d_{YIDC} , so as to determine whether or not the obtained secret key d_{YIDC} has been transmitted from a proper key management work station 500. Likewise, signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YIDC})$ and the public key Q_{YIDC} which is a transmitted master key
15 using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 so as to determine that the obtained public key Q_{YIDC} has been transmitted from a proper key management work station 500.

3: Signature verifying computation is carried out on the
20 signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{CG})$ and the public key Q_{CG} to be operated on the transmitted encryption algorithm EANG converted of the key management work station 500, using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500, so as to determine whether or not the transmitted public key Q_{CG} is a
25 public key sent from a proper key management work station 500.

In this manner, the reception side user obtains the encryption algorithm EANG, a secret key d_{YIDC} as a master key, a public key Q_{YIDC} corresponding to this secret key, and a public key Q_{CG} to be operated on the converted encryption algorithm EANG of the key management work station 500. Then, the obtained encryption algorithm EANG is registered in the encryption algorithm control data base 290 and the encryption algorithm to be operated by the encryption algorithm control function 220 is converted from the encryption algorithm EBF to the encryption algorithm EANG.

If the master key of a reception side user is changed, the secret key as the master key is updated from d_{YID} to d_{YIDC} by the key structure control function 210.

(7) Confirmation of the descramble function 240 by the converted encryption algorithm of a reception side user

An encrypted statement transmitted from the key management work station 500 is decrypted by the descramble function 240 using a converted encryption algorithm so as to determine whether or not the descramble function 240 operates properly.

- 1: The encrypted statement $EANG_{Q_{YIDC}}(K_{DC})$ is decrypted using the secret key d_{YIDC} as a master key so as to obtain the descramble key K_{DC} .
- 2: The encrypted statement $EANG_{K_{SC}}(MD)$ is decrypted with the descramble key K_{DC} so as to obtain a plain text data MD.

Next, signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dcg}(MD)$ and the obtained plain text data MD using the public key Q_{CG} of the key management work station 500, so as to determine that the obtained plain text data MD has been transmitted from a proper key management work station 500.

3: It is confirmed that the plain text data MD is "confirmation of the descramble function after algorithm conversion is terminated". Then, it is confirmed that the descramble function 240 operates properly.

(8) Driving the scramble function by the converted encryption algorithm at a reception side user

To ensure that the scramble function 230 of the converted encryption algorithm operates properly, plain text data is set up, encrypted by the scramble function 230 and transmitted to the key management work station 500.

1: The plain text data MS is written as "algorithm conversion confirmation test is terminated". The scramble key K_{su} for encrypting the aforementioned plain text data MS and the descramble key K_{du} for decrypting are generated with the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion. Next, the plain text data MS is encrypted by the scramble key K_{su} so as to create an encrypted statement $EANG_{K_{su}}(MS)$.

Likewise, the descramble key K_{du} is encrypted with the public key Q_{CG} of the key management work station 500 so as to create the encrypted statement $EANG_{Q_{CG}}(K_{du})$. Further,

signature producing computation is carried out on the data MS using the secret key d_{YIDC} as a master key of a reception side user so as to produce the signature data $S_{dYIDC}(MS)$.

2: Two produced encrypted statements $EANG_{QCG}(K_{DU})$,

- 5 $EANG_{KSU}(MS)$, signature data $S_{dYIDC}(MS)$, signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ transmitted from the key management work station 500, and public key Q_{YIDC} of a reception side user are returned to the key management work station 500 as "encryption algorithm conversion confirmation request".

- 10 (9) Confirmation of the encryption algorithm conversion at the key management work station 500

An encrypted statement returned from the reception side user is decrypted so as to confirm that the scramble function 230 using the converted encryption algorithm of the reception side user operates properly. Then, it is confirmed that the encryption algorithm after the conversion operates properly.

- 15 1: The encrypted statement $EANG_{QCG}(K_{DU})$ is decrypted with the secret key d_{cg} as a master key of the key management work station 500 so as to obtain the descramble key K_{DU} .

2: The encrypted statement $EANG_{KSU}(MS)$ is decrypted with the descramble key K_{DU} so as to obtain plain text data MS.

- 3: Signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ and the transmitted public key Q_{YIDC} of the reception side user using the public key Q_{cg} of the key management work station 500, so as to confirm that the
- 25

transmitted public key Q_{YIDC} of the reception side user has been transmitted from a proper reception side user.

4: Signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data S_{dYIDC} (MS) and obtained plain text data MS, using the public key Q_{YIDC} of a reception side user, so as to confirm that the obtained plain text data MS has been transmitted from a proper reception side user.

5: It is confirmed that the obtained plain text data MS is "algorithm conversion confirmation test is terminated" and then it is confirmed that the scramble function 230 of the reception side user operates properly. Then, it is confirmed that the encryption algorithm after the conversion operates properly.

The examples of the algorithm conversion of this embodiment have been described in the above (1)-(9). By this encryption algorithm conversion, it comes that the user U[A] and user U[B] share the same encryption algorithm. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 12, cryptographic communication between the user U[A] and user U[B] is enabled.

In case when an encryption algorithm is converted, in this embodiment, the secret key as a master key possessed by user and a public key corresponding to this secret key are generated at the key management work station.

Although these keys may be generated newly, it is possible to generate them based on the keys prior to the

conversion. The generation of the key will be described below.

In case of public key cipher also, the key length of the secret key for use in the cryptographic communication, or bit number is increased or decreased by the encryption algorithm conversion like the case of the common key cipher.

To reduce the bit number of the key, redundant bit number of a rear part of the secret key d_{YID} as a master key prior to the conversion of a reception side user is deleted and this is used as the secret key d_{YIDC} as a new master key of the reception side user.

To prolong the bit number of the key, as shown in Fig. 15, a random number YR is generated corresponding to a short bit number and the YR is connected to d_{PYID} so as to obtain the secret key d_{YIDC} ($d_{YIDC} = P_{YIDC} \parallel YR$) as a new master key of a reception side user. A public key Q_{YIDC} ($= P \cdot d_{YIDC}$; \cdot is computation on an elliptical curve) is determined corresponding to the generated secret key d_{YIDC} .

Because there is a possibility that this public key Q_{YIDC} is a secret key of other user generated previously, the key management work station 500 retrieves in the network encryption algorithm control data base 590 so as to confirm that there is no same public key. If the same public key exists, a random number is generated again so as to generate a secret key as a master key.

Here, it is always possible to use 0 as YR.

As described, the encryption algorithm for operating the master key and session key employs an elliptical curve encryption algorithm which is different from the common key encryption algorithm. As a result, duplex encryption
5 method is constructed so as to improve the security.

Next, a configuration of a case where the elliptical curve cipher is used as a public key cipher in the network communication system of the present invention will be described. The software function of the case where the
10 public key cipher is used is the same as the software function of the common key cipher shown in Fig. 2. As shown in an example of a case where the aforementioned public key encryption algorithm is used, the master key of each user is the secret key d_{ID} and this secret key
15 corresponds to a public key Q_{ID} ($= d_{ID} \cdot P$: \cdot is computation on elliptical curve) on computation of an elliptical curve. The encryption algorithm of the scramble key and descramble key is MULTI2 encryption algorithm as the common key encryption algorithm.

20 A fourth embodiment of the present invention will be described. Encryption algorithm conversion in encryption function incorporated in a portable information processing unit will be described here.

In the above described first-third embodiments, a
25 plurality of encryption algorithms exist in network communication system as shown in Fig. 1. The key

management work station 500 grasps a condition of the encryption algorithm of each user and each time when a request for cryptographic communication occurs, it converts the encryption algorithm of each user as required so as to
5 achieve the cryptographic communication between users.

Recently, an encryption function has been incorporated in a portable information processing unit, for example, portable terminal unit, IC card and the like and it is used for automatic payment of electronic money.

10 In case where user possesses an IC card as information processing unit in which an encryption function is incorporated and executes automatic payment of electronic money, this IC card is inserted into a reader which is an information processing unit installed on a retailer counter
15 or the like, so that the payment is carried out by information processing between the both.

In this case, if the IC card is connected to the key management work station to carry out encryption processing, a user's procedure becomes complicated so that he or she
20 feels a lot of inconvenience.

Hereinafter, an encryption algorithm conversion method preferable for encryption algorithm conversion to be operated in a portable information processing unit (terminal, IC card and the like) will be described.

25 If cryptographic communication is carried out in an cryptographic communication system operated by the public

key encryption algorithm shown in Fig. 12, a transmission side user makes a "session key issue request" to the key management work station 500 as shown in Fig. 2 and receives a public key Q_{YID} of a reception side user, signature data
5 $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ of the public key YID , its own public key Q_{ID} and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ of that public key Q_{ID} from the key management work station 500.

Here, each user stores its own public key Q_{ID} and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ in the key structure control data
10 base 180, 280. Fig. 16 shows cryptographic communication system operated by the public key encryption algorithm (Fig. 25 shows the functional blocks of this method). Each user receives its own public key Q_{ID} and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ of that public key Q_{ID} from the key management work station
15 500 through a route indicated by dotted line of Fig. 16 and possesses it in the key structure control data base of each user. In this case, the "session key issue request" for executing cryptographic communication may be made to a
20 station 500.

That is, the "session key issue request" is sent to the reception side user and then, a public key Q_{YID} of that reception side user and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ of this public key are received from the reception side user.

25 In the method shown in Fig. 16, it can be considered that the secret key d_{ID} as a master key to be allocated to

each user is generated by the key management work station 500 or each user.

1: Method in which the secret key is generated by the key management work station 500

5 If the secret key d_{ID} as a master key and a corresponding public key Q_{ID} are generated by the key management work station 500, user not accustomed to operation of the encryption algorithm feels very convenient.

10 However, how the generated secret key is distributed to each user is a problem.

 In this embodiment, it is stored in such an electronic medium as an IC card and floppy disk and distributed to each user.

15 As a result, it is made possible for the key management work station 500 to hold the generated secret key d_{ID} and for the key management work station 500 to decrypt data encrypted with the public key Q_{ID} corresponding to the user. Because the key management work station 500 prevents grasping of user's information, according to this
20 embodiment, the generated secret key d_{ID} is provided with a key recovery function and stored in the network key structure data base 580 with a correspondence to user ID, thereby disabling user to decrypt a cipher text generated by user except when an unexpected event occurs.

25 Hereinafter, the key recovery function of this embodiment will be described by taking cryptographic

communication in which the key has duplex hierarchical structure as an example. The key recovery function adds information about decryption to an encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$ and is capable of decrypting the encrypted statement without the descramble key K_D .

First, the key recovery function in cryptographic communication based on common key encryption algorithm will be described. That is, data to be transmitted by the user is assumed to be M . The data is encrypted with the scramble key K_s generated by the portable information processing unit so as to generate the encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$. The descramble key K_D for decrypting this encrypted statement is encrypted with the session key P_T transmitted from the key management work station 500, so as to generate an encrypted statement $E_{PT}(K_D)$.

First, a procedure for producing additional data for providing with the key recovery function when data is encrypted with the scramble key K_s will be described with reference to Fig. 23.

(1) A random number is generated when the scramble key K_s is generated and the scramble key is expressed as $K_s = K1 \text{ XOR } K2$ by exclusive OR between $K1$ and $K2$ (XOR is indicated by direct sum symbol in the Figure).

(2) $P1$, $P2$ are used as a key for key recovery and stored with the key recovery function of the portable information processing unit and key management work station 500. $K1$,

K2 generated for generating the scramble keys K_s are encrypted with the keys P1, P2 for key recovery so as to produce encrypted statements $E_{P1}(K1)$, $E_{P2}(K2)$. This data is added to the encrypted statement $E_{Ks}(M)$ of data produced
5 with the scramble key K_s .

Next, a procedure for decrypting the encrypted statement with this additional data will be described with reference to Fig. 24.

(1) Data $E_{P1}(K1)$, $E_{P2}(K2)$ added from the encrypted
10 statement are separated from each other and then K1, K2 are decrypted with the keys P1, P2 for key recovery.

(2) An exclusive OR between K1 and K2 is obtained and with $K_s = K1 \text{ XOR } K2$, the scramble key K_s is generated. In case of common key cipher, the scramble key K_s and descramble
15 key K_d are the same. The encrypted statement can be decrypted with this scramble key K_s .

If a necessity of decrypting the encrypted statement occurs because an unexpected event is generated, the encrypted statement is transmitted to the key management
20 work station 500. Consequently, the encrypted statement can be decrypted with the keys P1, P2 for key recovery in the aforementioned procedure.

Next, the key recovery function in the cryptographic communication based on the public key encryption algorithm
25 will be described. It is assumed that the scramble keys for use in encryption of the data M are K_s and the

descramble keys are K_D and the public key as a session key for distributing the descramble key is Q_{YID} . Cryptographic communication is carried out by transmission of the encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$ and encrypted descramble key $E_{QYID}(K_D)$.

Here, a case where elliptical curve cipher is used as a public key cipher will be described. The elliptical curve cipher has been described in for example, "Quick Encryption Method Using Elliptical Curve" by Kazuo Takaragi and Hiroyuki Kurumatani, Technical Report of IEICE ISEC97-15(1997-07).

First, key recovery function in which a threshold value logic is added to encrypted descramble key $E_{QYID}(K_D)$ will be described.

(1) In the key recovery function of the key management workstation 500, the public keys for key recovery Q_A , Q_B , Q_C are allocated and publicized and secret keys d_A , d_B , d_C ($Q_A = d_A \cdot P$, $Q_B = d_B \cdot P$, $Q_C = d_C \cdot P$) corresponding to the public keys are stored.

A threshold value logic computed by the keys Q_{YID} , Q_A , Q_B , Q_C is added to the encrypted descramble key $E_{QYID}(K_D)$.

(2) Like the case where the common key cipher is used, upon cryptographic communication, data cannot be encrypted with the scramble key K_s until the descramble key K_D is encrypted.

The encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$ of data and the encrypted descramble key $E_{QYID}(K_D)$ are always generated in pair.

(3) If a necessity of decrypting an encrypted statement occurs because an unexpected event is generated, the encrypted statements $E_{KS}(M)$ and $E_{QYID}(K_D)$ of a pair are transmitted to the key management work station 500.

5 The key recovery function decrypts with two of the secret keys d_A , d_B , d_C and the threshold value logic added to the $E_{QYID}(K_D)$ to obtain the descramble key K_D .

Next, the encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$ is decrypted with this key K_D so as to obtain data M .

10 An encrypted statement of data M to be transmitted is created by encryption computation with the scramble key K_S . Thus, like the key recovery function using the common key cipher (see Fig. 23 for encryption and Fig. 24 for decryption), it is permissible to express the scramble key
15 K_S by exclusive OR between K_1 and K_2 and carry out key recovery using them. Although the keys P_1 , P_2 for key recovery shown in Figs. 23, 24 can be operated with the common key encryption algorithm, they can be also operated for key recovery with the public keys Q_A , Q_B .

20 In this case, data to be added to the encrypted statement $E_{KS}(M)$ for key recovery are encrypted statements $E_{QA}(K_1)$, $E_{QB}(K_2)$ obtained by encrypting K_1 , K_2 with public keys Q_A , Q_B . The key recovery is carried out by decrypting the added data using the secret keys d_A , d_B corresponding to
25 the public keys Q_A , Q_B in the key recovery function of the key management work station 500.

2: Method for generation by each user

A user accustomed to operation of the encryption algorithm is capable of generating the secret key d_{ID} as a master key for use by himself or herself and corresponding
5 public key Q_{ID} .

In this case, because the secret key d_{ID} as a master key to be possessed by user is possessed only by the user, there is no possibility that an encrypted statement produced by the public key Q_{ID} may be decrypted at the key
10 management work station 500.

The user transmits the public key Q_{ID} generated corresponding to the secret key d_{ID} to the key management work station 500.

The key management work station 500 recognizes an
15 identity of a user transmitting the public key Q_{ID} , carries out signature producing computation on the transmitted public key Q_{ID} with the secret key d_c possessed by the key management work station 500 and transmits the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{ID})$ to that user.

20 According to this embodiment, like the case indicated by 1:, the secret key d_{ID} as a master key possessed by user is provided with key recovery function and stored in the network key structure data base 580 with a correspondence to user ID.

25 Which the secret key d_{ID} as a master key possessed by each user and a corresponding public key Q_{ID} are to be

generated by the key management work station 500 or user is selected depending on user condition.

If the above method is applied, cryptographic communication can be achieved between the IC card (as a reception side user) and a reader (as a transmission side user) which is an information processing unit installed on a retailer counter or the like not through the key management work station 500, with the IC card inserted in the reader.

10 If the encryption algorithms are different between the IC card and reader which is the information processing unit, when user inserts the IC card into the reader, cryptographic communication or payment cannot be achieved until the encryption algorithm of the both are made equal.

15 In this case, a necessity of converting the encryption algorithm occurs. If this encryption algorithm conversion is possible in the condition that the IC card is inserted in the reader which is the information processing unit installed on a retailer counter, user's procedure is simplified, thereby ensuring a lot of convenience.

20 Such encryption algorithm conversion will be described with reference to Figs. 17 and 18.

In case of elliptical curve cipher, the encryption algorithm is determined by coefficients a and b of the elliptical curve $Y^2 = X^3 + ax + b$, characteristic p of coefficient, base point P and its order n. This encryption

algorithm may be kept secret or public.

The public key Q and secret key d of an elliptical curve cipher are expressed as $Q = d \cdot P$ (\cdot is computation on an elliptical curve) by the base point P .

5 Even if the coefficients a and b of the elliptical curve $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ are equal, it is possible to provide different encryption algorithms having the same encryption intensity by changing the base point P . If the coefficients a , b and characteristic p of the coefficient
10 are changed, the elliptical curve is changed, so that a different encryption algorithm is settled.

If the elliptical curve is generated so as to have almost equal key length before and after the coefficients a , b and characteristic p of the coefficient are changed, a
15 plurality of almost the same encryption algorithms having different encryption intensity can be provided.

In case where the coefficients a , b and characteristic p of the coefficient are changed, the encryption intensity or key length can be changed depending on a generation
20 method of the elliptical curve.

Hereinafter, a case assuming that the encryption algorithm used by the IC card is EBF and the encryption algorithm used by a reader as an information processing unit is EANG and the key length of the EANG is longer than
25 that of the EBF will be described about other example of the encryption algorithm conversion.

Here, cryptographic communication system to which the encryption algorithm conversion is applied will be described with reference to Fig. 21. This cryptographic communication system employs a hierarchical structure having a simplex cipher key. That is, this system does not employ the scramble key and descramble key of the cryptographic communication system shown in Fig. 16.

First of all, data base about the key and encryption algorithm possessed by the transmission side user, reception side user and network management work station will be described with reference to the software function of the network communication system shown in Fig. 3. In this embodiment, the transmission side user corresponds to a reader as the information processing unit and the reception side user corresponds to a portable information processing unit such as an IC card.

With reference to Fig. 19, examples of information to be stored in the data base about the key and encryption algorithm will be described.

- (1) Data base of the key management work station 500
1: Network encryption algorithm management data base 590

The data base stores encryption algorithms $A[1]$, $A[2]$, $\dots A[N]$ of all the elliptical curves for use by this network communication system, version numbers $B[1]$, $B[2]$, $\dots B[N]$ corresponding to the encryption algorithms, secret keys $d_c[1]$, $d_c[2]$, $\dots d_c[N]$ as a master key for use by the

key management work station 500 corresponding to the encryption algorithms, and public keys $Q_c[1]$, $Q_c[2]$, ... $Q_c[N]$ corresponding to the secret keys.

In the encryption algorithm EBF of this embodiment,
5 the version number BF, the secret key d_c as the master key and the public key Q_c corresponding to this secret key are stored corresponding to the encryption algorithm EBF. Likewise, in the encryption algorithm EANG of this embodiment, the version number BG, the secret key d_{cg} as the
10 master key and the public key Q_{cg} corresponding to this secret key are stored corresponding to the encryption algorithm EANG.

2: Network key management data base 580

The network key management data base 580 stores user
15 ID of user of an IC card or a reader which is an information processing unit, $ID[1]$, $ID[2]$, ... $ID[M]$, version numbers of the encryption algorithm for use by this user, $BP[1]$, $BP[2]$, ... $BP[M]$, and the public keys for use by the user with this encryption algorithm, $Q_{ID}[1]$, $Q_{ID}[2]$,
20 ... $Q_{ID}[M]$ corresponding to the user ID.

The secret keys $d_{ID}[1]$, $d_{ID}[2]$, ... $d_{ID}[M]$ as the master key for use by each user corresponding to the encryption algorithm are supplied with the key recovery function and stored corresponding to each user ID.

25 (2) Data base of the transmission side user 100 (reader which is an information processing unit)

1: encryption algorithm data base 190

(i) As information of the encryption algorithm operated by the user, the encryption algorithm data base 190 stores encryption algorithm EANG, version number BG, public key Q_{cg} for use by the key management work station 500 under this encryption algorithm and signature data $S_{dcg}(EANG)$ of the key management work station 500 corresponding to the encryption algorithm EANG.

Here, the signature data $S_{dcg}(EANG)$ is obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the encryption algorithm EANG with the secret key d_{cg} as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EANG.

(ii) As information about the encryption algorithm operated by the network communication system, the encryption algorithms $A[1], A[2], \dots A[N]$, corresponding version numbers $B[1], B[2], \dots B[N]$, the public keys for use by the key management work station 500, $Q_c[1], Q_c[2], \dots Q_c[N]$, and signature data of the key management work station corresponding to the public key Q_{cg} , $S_{dc}[1](Q_{cg}), S_{dc}[2](Q_{cg}), \dots S_{dc}[N](Q_{cg})$ are stored corresponding to the encryption algorithms.

Here, the signature data $S_{dc}[i](Q_{cg})$ is obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{cg} with the secret key $d_c[i]$ as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption

algorithm A[i].

Specifically in the encryption algorithm EBF of this embodiment, the version number BF, public key Q_c and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$ are stored corresponding to the encryption algorithm EBF.

Here, the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$ is obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{cg} with the secret key d_c as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EBF.

2: Key structure management data base 180

The key structure management data base 180 stores the encryption algorithm to be operated by user, namely in this embodiment, the secret key d_{ID} as the master key for use by the user under the encryption algorithm EANG, public key Q_{ID} corresponding to this secret key and signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{ID})$ obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{ID} with the secret key d_{cg} as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EANG.

(3) Reception side user (IC card) 200 data base

1: encryption algorithm data base 290

As information about the encryption algorithm operated by the user, the encryption algorithm EBF, version number BF, public key Q_c for use by the key management work station 500 under this encryption algorithm and signature

data $S_{dc}(EBF)$ of the key management work station 500 relative to the encryption algorithm EBF are stored.

Here, the signature data $S_{dc}(EBF)$ is obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the encryption algorithm EBF with the secret key d_c as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EBF.

2: Key structure management data base 280

The key structure management data base 280 stores the encryption algorithm to be operated by user, namely in this embodiment, the secret key d_{YID} as the master key for use by the user under the encryption algorithm EBF, public key Q_{YID} corresponding to this secret key and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{YID} with the secret key d_c as the master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EBF.

Above, the data base about the key and encryption algorithm which are a presumption for the encryption algorithm conversion has been described.

A public key for use by the key management work station 500, signature data produced with the secret key as a master key for use by the key management work station 500, an encryption algorithm and a version number corresponding thereto are stored in the transmission side user and reception side user data bases.

These data are distributed by the key management work station 500.

Next, an example of encryption algorithm conversion to be carried out between a transmission side user (reader
5 which is an information processing unit) and a reception side user (IC card) will be described with reference to Figs. 17 and 18.

Although for encryption algorithm conversion, the elliptical curve encryption algorithm may be sent in open
10 state, according to this embodiment, it is sent in encryption state.

Here, assuming that as described previously, the key length of the EANG is longer than that of the EBF, a case where the encryption algorithm EBF of an IC card is
15 converted to the encryption algorithm EANG will be described.

1: User possessing an IC card purchases at a shop or the like and inserts the IC card into a reader as the information processing unit to pay for purchased goods.

20 The cryptographic communication control function of the reader as the information processing unit adds a version number BG to the operating encryption algorithm EANG and sends a "session key issue request" to cryptographic communication control function 250 of the IC
25 card.

2: If the version number of the encryption algorithm

operated by the IC card agrees with the BG, the IC card issues the public key possessed by himself and the signature data of the public key and carries out cryptographic communication with the reader as the information processing unit according to a procedure shown in Fig. 21.

However, the version number of the encryption algorithm EBF operated by the IC card is BF, which is different from the transmitted version number BG.

After recognizing that the version number is different, the cryptographic communication control function 250 adds BF to this version number and sends an "encryption algorithm updating request" to the cryptographic communication control function 150 of a reader which is an information processing unit.

3: Under the version number BF, the reader as the information processing unit retrieves in the encryption algorithm data base 190 and fetches out the public key Q_{cg} of the key management work station 500 operated with the encryption algorithm EANG and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$ obtained by carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{cg} with the secret key d_c as a master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EBF and transmits this public key Q_{cg} and the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$ to the IC card.

4: The IC card carries out signature verifying computation

on the transmitted public key Q_{cg} and signature data S_{dc}
(Q_{cg}) using the public key Q_c of the key management work
station 500 operated under the encryption algorithm EBF, so
as to verify that the public key Q_{cg} has been transmitted
5 from the reader as a proper information processing unit.
5: Next, the IC card carries out signature producing
computation on the public key Q_{YID} with the public key Q_{YID}
of an IC card operated under the encryption algorithm EBF
from the key structure management data base 280 and the
10 secret key d_c as a master key for use by the key management
work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EBF and
fetches out the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ distributed from the
management work station 500, and then transmits this public
key Q_{YID} and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ to the reader as an
15 information processing unit.
6: The reader as the information processing unit carries
out signature verifying computation on the received public
key Q_{YID} and signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{YID})$ using the public key Q_c
of the key management work station 500 operated under the
20 encryption algorithm EBF, so as to verify that the public
key Q_{YID} has been transmitted from a proper IC card.
7: The reader as the information processing unit encrypts
the encryption algorithm EANG with the public key Q_{YID} by
operating the encryption algorithm EBF so as to create the
25 encrypted statement $EBF_{Q_{YID}}(EANG)$.

At the same time, signature producing computation is

carried out on the encryption algorithm EANG with the
secret key d_{cg} as a master key for use by the key management
work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EANG. Then,
the signature data $S_{dcg}(EANG)$ distributed from the
5 management work station 500 is fetched out and the
encrypted statement $EBF_{QYID}(EANG)$ and signature data
 $S_{dcg}(EANG)$ are transmitted to the IC card.

8: The IC card decrypts the transmitted encrypted statement
 $EBF_{QYID}(EANG)$ using the secret key d_{YID} possessed by the IC
10 card operated under the encryption algorithm EBF so as to
obtain the encryption algorithm EANG.

Next, the IC card converts the operating encryption
algorithm from EBF to the obtained EANG, and carries out
signature verifying computation on the obtained encryption
15 algorithm EANG and received signature data $S_{dcg}(EANG)$ using
the public key Q_{cg} of the key management work station 500
obtained in 4: so as to verify that this is an encryption
algorithm distributed from a reader as a proper information
processing unit. As a result, updating of the encryption
20 algorithm to this EANG is completed.

9: Because the key length of the encryption algorithm EANG
is longer than the encryption algorithm EBF, the secret key
 d_{YID} as the master key of the IC card is used as a secret
key of the encryption algorithm EANG as it is and a
25 corresponding public key Q_{YIDC} ($= P \cdot d_{YID}$; . is computation on
an elliptical curve) is generated from the base point P of

the received encryption algorithm EANG.

The IC card returns the encryption algorithm to EBF temporarily and carries out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{YIDC} using the secret key d_{YID} under the encryption algorithm EBF so as to produce signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$.

The IC card transmits the generated public key Q_{YIDC} and signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ to the reader as an information processing unit.

10: The reader as the information processing unit converts the encryption algorithm to EBF temporarily and carries out signature verifying computation on the received signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ and public key Q_{YIDC} using the public key Q_{YID} obtained in 6:, so as to verify that it is a public key Q_{YIDC} of an IC card distributed from a proper IC card.

After that, the encryption algorithm is converted to the encryption algorithm EANG again.

11: The reader as the information processing unit carries out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{ID} with the public key Q_{ID} for use by the reader as the information processing unit operated under the encryption algorithm EANG sent from the key structure management data base 180 and the secret key d_{cg} as a master key for use by the key management work station 500 under the encryption algorithm EANG. Then, the signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{ID})$ distributed from the management work station 500 is fetched

out and this public key Q_{ID} and the signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{ID})$ are transmitted to the IC card.

12: The IC card carries out signature verifying computation on the received signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{ID})$ and public key Q_{ID} using the public key Q_{cg} of the key management work station 500 obtained in 4: under the encryption algorithm EANG, so as to verify that it is a public key Q_{ID} for the reader as an information processing unit, transmitted from the reader as a proper information processing unit.

13: Consequently, the IC card and the reader as the information processing unit share the encryption algorithm EANG and verifies the validities of the public keys (public key Q_{ID} of a reader as the information processing unit and public key Q_{YIDC} of the IC card). By carrying out data encryption with this public key, cryptographic communication, signature producing computation and signature verifying computation can be executed between the IC card and the reader as the information processing unit, thereby enabling payment.

20 The key management work station 500 does not do anything in the above described procedure.

However, because the IC card has no signature data of the key management work station 500 regarding the converted public key Q_{YIDC} , it cannot be used just as it is, but after the payment is settled, the encryption algorithm needs to be returned from EANG to EBF.

Next, an example for obtaining signature data of the key management work station by the public key Q_{YIDC} converted by the IC card will be described with reference to Fig. 18.

5 1: The signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ produced with the secret key d_{YID} under the encryption algorithm EBF for the public key Q_{YIDC} of an IC card operated by the encryption algorithm EANG whose validity is verified, is transmitted from the IC card to the reader as the information processing unit.

10 This signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$, public key Q_{YIDC} , public key Q_{YID} of an IC card operated with the encryption algorithm EBF, version number BF of the encryption algorithm EBF, version number BG of the encryption algorithm EANG, and user ID of the IC card are transmitted
15 to the key management work station 500.

2: With the user ID of the IC card as a key, the key management work station 500 retrieves in the network key management data base 580 and verifies that the public key Q_{YID} of a received IC card exists.

20 Signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ and public key Q_{YIDC} using the public key Q_{YID} of the IC card so as to verify that it is a public key Q_{YIDC} of a proper IC card.

In the above procedure, it is verified that the public
25 key Q_{YIDC} is a public key of the IC card.

3: Signature producing computation is carried out on this

public key Q_{YIDC} using the secret key d_{cg} of the key management work station 500 operated with the encryption algorithm EANG so as to create signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ and it is returned to the reader as the information processing
5 unit.

The key management work station 500 updates a version number of the encryption algorithm stored corresponding to the user ID of the IC card in the network key management data base 580 and the public key to BG and Q_{YIDC}
10 respectively.

4: The reader as the information processing unit transmits this signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ to the IC card.

In the above processing, the IC card is capable of obtaining the signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ of the key management work station 500 for the public key Q_{YIDC} .
15

In the above described embodiment, the key management work station 500 verifies an existence of the public key Q_{YID} before the conversion and signature data of the public key Q_{YIDC} after the conversion thereby preventing an access
20 of a false IC card.

The IC card possesses the public key Q_{YIDC} operated under the encryption algorithm EANG and signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$ of the key management work station 500 and is capable of operating the encryption algorithm EANG.

25 The key management work station only has to carry out signature production and signature verifying computation on

a public key generated with respect to the converted encryption algorithm. Thus, with the IC card inserted into the reader as the information processing unit, encryption algorithm conversion can be carried out.

5 In this encryption algorithm conversion, user (IC card in this case) generates its own secret key and public key for a new encryption algorithm.

10 In this embodiment, it is specified that the secret keys possessed by the user are the same for the encryption algorithm before the conversion and encryption algorithm after the conversion.

15 Such a secret key setting method is effective when the key lengths of the encryption algorithms mixing in a system vary and it cannot be specified which key length encryption algorithm the user is using.

 It can be considered that conversion of encrypting algorithm is carried out to one which has a longer key which any user does not use.

20 In this case, if the key length of a secret key used by each user is the same as before the conversion, the key length used by every user is not increased although a key length permitted by the encryption algorithm is extended. In this case, a cipher attacker can attack with a range of the key length to be attacked limited to an original key
25 length. That is, it does not come that substantially the encryption intensity is increased, even if the allowable

key length is prolonged.

To avoid this event, a method in which the key length is prolonged as shown in Fig. 15 can be considered effective.

5 In this case, even if every user increases the key length based on a random number, key management is made easier because the same key length does not exist.

10 An attention has to be paid to only a user newly participating in the system so that the same key may not exist.

15 The method for user to generate his or her own secret key and public key for a new encryption algorithm is applicable to ordinary encryption algorithm conversion described in Figs. 13, 14 and 11. If user generates his or her own secret key, a possibility that the secret key may be decrypted by the key management work station can be avoided. Hereinafter, an example for generating his or her own secret key with respect to the encryption algorithm conversion will be described with reference to Fig. 20.

20 Although in the encryption algorithm conversion of this case, it is necessary to verify the scramble function and descramble function, this is the same method as described in Figs. 13, 14 and 11 and only an encryption algorithm distribution method and a generation method for a
25 secret key to be possessed by user himself will be stated here.

An operating condition of the public key encryption method mentioned here employs the cryptographic communication method shown in Fig. 16 and Fig. 20 shows an example of the encryption algorithm conversion in this
5 cryptographic communication method.

In this Figure, it is assumed that the encryption algorithm operated by the reception side user is EBF and the encryption algorithm to be converted is EANG.

As described in Figs. 13, 14 and 11, it is assumed
10 that a secret key as a master key to be operated by the key management work station relative to the encryption algorithm EBF is d_c and a public key corresponding to this secret key is Q_c .

Likewise, it is assumed that the secret key as a
15 master key for the key management work station to operate the encryption algorithm EANG is d_{cg} and the public key corresponding to this secret key is Q_{cg} .

On the other hand, it is assumed that the secret key as a master key to be operated by the reception side user
20 for the encryption algorithm EBF is d_{YID} and the public key corresponding to this secret key is Q_{YID} .

The above described presumption is the same as shown in Figs. 13, 14 and 11 and an embodiment of the encryption algorithm conversion will be described.

25 (1) The network key management function 570 of the key management work station 500 creates the following encrypted

statement and signature data using the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion.

1: A scramble key K_{SB} for encrypting the encryption algorithm EANG and a descramble key K_{DB} for decrypting are
5 generated with the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion.

2: The encryption algorithm EANG is encrypted with the scramble key K_{SB} so as to create an encrypted statement $EBF_{K_{SB}}(EANG)$.

10 Further, the public key Q_{YID} as the master key of the reception side user is fetched out and the descramble key K_{DB} is encrypted so as to create an encrypted statement $EBF_{Q_{YID}}(K_{DB})$.

15 3: Signature producing computation is carried out on the encryption algorithm EANG with the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion and the secret key d_c which is a master key of the key management work station 500 so as to create signature data $S_{dc}(EANG)$.

20 4: Signature producing computation is carried out on the encryption algorithm EBF before the conversion and the public key Q_{cg} as a master key of the key management work station 500 which is applied to the encryption algorithm EANG after the conversion with the secret key dc as the master key of the key management work station 500 so as to
25 create signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$.

5: Two produced encrypted statements $EBF_{Q_{YID}}(K_{DB})$,

$EBF_{K_{SB}}(EANG)$, two signature data $S_{dc}(EANG)$, $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$ and the public key Q_{cg} of the key management work station 500 are transmitted to the IC card (the reception side user) via an IC card reader (not shown in Fig. 20).

5

(2) Reception side user's obtaining the encryption algorithm

The reception side user operates EBF as an encryption algorithm and possesses the secret key d_{YID} as a master key and a public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 operated by the encryption algorithm EBF.

1: An encrypted statement $EBF_{Q_{YID}}(K_{DB})$ is decrypted using the secret key d_{YID} as a master key so as to obtain the descramble key K_{DB} . Next, the encrypted statement

15 $EBF_{K_{SB}}(EANG)$ is decrypted using this descramble key K_{DB} so as to obtain the encryption algorithm EANG. Signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dc}(EANG)$ and obtained encryption algorithm EANG using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 under

20 the encryption algorithm EBF and it is verified whether or not the obtained encryption algorithm EANG has been transmitted from the proper key management work station 500.

2: Under the encryption algorithm EBF, signature verifying computation is carried out on the signature data $S_{dc}(Q_{cg})$

25 and the public key Q_{cg} to be operated on the received encryption algorithm EANG converted by the key management

work station 500 using the public key Q_c of the key management work station 500 so as to verify that the transmitted public key is a public key of a proper key management work station 500.

5 In the above manner, the reception side user has obtained the encryption algorithm EANG and public key Q_{cg} to be operated on the encryption algorithm EANG of the key management work station 500. Then, the obtained encryption algorithm EANG is registered in the encryption algorithm management data base 290, and the encryption algorithm EANG as well as EBF is made operable by the encryption algorithm management function.

(3) Conversion of the key possessed by the reception side user

15 1: With respect to the encryption algorithm EANG transmitted from the key management work station 500, the reception side user generates a new secret key d_{YIDC} as a master key which he owns himself.

The following three methods can be mentioned as a method for generating the secret key.

(a) Using the secret key d_{YID} operated with the encryption algorithm EBF as a secret key of the encryption algorithm EANG

(b) Generating a new secret key d_{YIDC} by adding a random number to the secret key d_{YID} operated with the encryption algorithm EBF as shown in Fig. 15.

(c) Generating a new secret key d_{YIDC} according to information of the encryption algorithm EANG.

The secret key d_{YIDC} to be possessed by the reception side user himself or herself is generated by any of these methods so as to generate the public key Q_{YIDC} corresponding to this secret key.

Because the above method (c) has a possibility that the generated secret key may agree with a key of other user as described previously, it is necessary for the key management work station 500 to verify that there is no public key which the other user uses.

In case when an encryption algorithm EANG to be converted is an elliptical curve cipher, with the base point of this algorithm as P , the public key Q_{YIDC} is given as $P \cdot d_{YIDC}$ (\cdot is computation on elliptical curve).

2: The reception side user returns the encryption algorithm to EBF temporarily and carries out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{YIDC} using the secret key d_{YID} under this encryption algorithm EBF so as to create signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$. The generated public key Q_{YIDC} , signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ and the reception side user's ID are transmitted to the key management work station 500 via the IC card reader (not shown in Fig. 20).

3: The key management work station 500 returns the encryption algorithm to EBF and queries the network key management data base 580 with the transmitted user ID as a

key so as to fetch out the public key Q_{YID} of a given reception side user. Next, signature verifying computation is carried out on the transmitted public key Q_{YIDC} and signature data $S_{dYID}(Q_{YIDC})$ using the public key Q_{YID} of this reception side user so as to verify that this is a public key Q_{YIDC} transmitted from a proper reception side user.

Because the key management work station 500 queries the network key management data base 580 and recognizes the public key Q_{YID} of the reception side user, it is possible to prevent a false reception side user from accessing this system.

In the above manner, the key management work station 500 obtains the public key Q_{YIDC} operated by the reception side user under the converted encryption algorithm EANG. After that, the key management work station 500 needs a series of procedure related to the encryption algorithm conversion, such as carrying out signature producing computation on the public key Q_{YIDC} operated by the reception side user by using the secret key d_{cg} as a master key operated under the encryption algorithm EANG, creating signature data $S_{dcg}(Q_{YIDC})$, sending it to the reception side user, verifying the scramble function and descramble function. These are achieved by carrying out the procedure for the encryption algorithm conversion described in Figs. 13, 14 and 11.

An example for user to generate his own key himself or

herself for a new encryption algorithm has been described.
Finally, (1) conversion from a common key encryption
algorithm to other public key encryption algorithm and (2)
conversion from the public key encryption algorithm to
5 other common key encryption algorithm will be described
below.

(1) Conversion from a common key encryption algorithm to
other public key encryption algorithm

The embodiment of the encryption algorithm conversion
10 from the common key encryption algorithm to other common
key encryption algorithm has been described with reference
to Figs. 8, 9 and 6.

In this case, it is assumed that the encryption
algorithm before the conversion is EBF and the encryption
15 algorithm after the conversion is EANG.

A case where the encryption algorithm will be
converted from the common key encryption algorithm to other
public key encryption algorithm will be described assuming
that the common key encryption algorithm before the
20 conversion is EBF and the public key encryption algorithm
after the conversion is EANG to use the same symbols.

The public key encryption algorithm EANG after the
conversion can be encrypted with the common key encryption
algorithm EBF before the conversion according to the
25 embodiment shown in Figs. 8, 9 and 6 and distributed.

In case where the common key encryption algorithm is

converted to the public key encryption algorithm, it is necessary to generate a new secret key and public key and verify the scramble function and descramble function for a converted public key encryption algorithm. This series of
5 key generation and functional verification can be carried out according to the embodiment of the public key encryption algorithm conversion shown in Figs. 13, 14 and 11.

(2) Conversion from the public key encryption algorithm to
10 other common key encryption algorithm

The common key encryption algorithm is different from the public key encryption algorithm in that no signature producing computation or signature verifying computation is carried out.

15 Therefore, in case where the public key encryption algorithm is converted to other common key encryption algorithm, the encryption algorithm conversion can be carried out in a procedure excluding the signature producing and verifying computations in the embodiment of
20 the public key encryption algorithm conversion shown in Figs. 13, 14 and 11.

The embodiment of the encryption algorithm conversion has been described above.

Whether or not the encryption algorithm conversion has
25 been carried out properly in the embodiment of the encryption algorithm conversion shown in Fig. 5, embodiment

of the common key encryption algorithm conversion shown in
Figs. 8, 9 and 6 and embodiment of the public key
encryption algorithm conversion shown in Figs. 13, 14 and
11, is verified by operating the scramble function and
5 descramble function of cryptographic communication system,
encrypting plain text data MD "confirmation of descramble
function after the algorithm conversion is terminated" and
plain text data MS "algorithm conversion confirmation test
is terminated", transmitting the data and verifying whether
10 or not the data are successfully decrypted.

If a given plain text data MD or plain text data MS is
not decrypted in each process for confirmation of this
encryption algorithm conversion, a response message to
"encryption algorithm conversion operation error" is
15 transmitted and that given process is executed again.

In a process for exchange of encryption algorithm
conversion data in the embodiment of the public key
encryption algorithm conversion shown in Figs. 17, 18, 13,
14 and 11, signature verifying computation is carried out
20 on signature production data created under the public key
encryption algorithm. If an error occurs in the signature
production data as a result of this signature verifying
computation, a response message "encryption algorithm
conversion operation error" is transmitted and that given
25 process is executed again.

If the plain text data MD or plain text data MS is not

decrypted after that reexecution or an error occurs in the signature production data as a result of the signature verifying computation, a response message "encryption algorithm conversion abnormal termination" is transmitted
5 and then the encryption algorithm conversion process is interrupted.

If such a response "encryption algorithm conversion abnormal termination" occurs, cryptographic communication system components are inspected in viewpoints of hardware
10 and software.

Although Figs. 13, 14 and 11 show the embodiments of the public key encryption algorithm conversion, if the encryption algorithm conversion is not carried out or if the encryption algorithm is the same and therefore, not
15 distributed, the key management station sends a procedure for distributing a key for use by user for key updating, deletion and the like. Although in the embodiment of the public key encryption algorithm conversion shown in Figs. 17 and 18, the process for encryption algorithm conversion
20 confirmation by the plain text data MD and MS has not been described, the encryption algorithm conversion confirmation can be carried out by encrypting the plain text data MD and MS with the public key based on the encryption algorithm and sending them according to the embodiment shown in Figs.
25 13, 14 and 11.

According to the present invention, the encryption

algorithm can be distributed with the safety and further, converted in a condition that time and labor required for the distribution are reduced.

Further, by the above-mentioned encryption algorithm
5 conversion, encryption algorithms operated by plural users are capable of sharing the same encryption algorithm or that shared encryption algorithm can be changed to other encryption algorithm.